Horticultural Society

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM AND THE GARDEN. THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

AND NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURE.

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Editorial.

THE HINGHAM MEETING.

The meeting held by the State Board of Agriculture last week, was a complete and very marked success. The attendance was good throughout, the enthusiasm sustained to the end, while the high character and quality of the lectures and papers presented left little to desire in that direction. It was a splendidly working session, prompt to begin at the appointed time, while the discussions were held as closely to the subject in hand as is ever practicable in a public meeting where everybody is at liberty to speak. We heard but one expression, and that was one of great satisfaction, as if every one felt it to be a privilege to be present. The programme was carried out completely, the only change being the insertion of an elaborate paper upon the *Principles of Breeding*, by Secretary Flint, on Wednesday afternoon, after the delivery of the lecture of Judge Bennett upon Farm Law. It was listened to with the utmost attention, and will constitute a valuable feature of the Report.

We presented last week a partial report of the proceedings and continue it this week. It will appear from this that a wide range of topics was included, though it is impossible, in a brief report, to give any adequate idea of the thoroughness with which they were all discussed. Some of them, no doubt, might have occupied more time than *could be allowed to them*. There is no end to the subject of fertilizers, for instance, suggested by the lecture of Dr. Nichols and of Prof. Stockbridge, while the subject of fruit and vegetable culture is of exhaustless interest. Mr. Paul's Farming Experience was told in a plain modest way, and was so full of practical common sense that most people were ready to vote it the gem of the whole meeting. The lectures of Col. Clark on Japan, and of Prof. Goodale on Seeds, were listened to with intense interest by very large and appreciative audiences, and so was the one of Dr. Fisher and Prof. Stockbridge.

CHEAP MANURE.

The question of cheap sources of manure is always interesting and important. It seems to us that sufficient attention has not been given to the manure to be obtained from stock fed on good rich food, either purchased or raised upon the farm. Dr. Lawes, of Rothamsted, England, has given this matter very serious attention, and has published a table worthy of the careful study of every feeder of stock; it will be noticed that in the case of wheat bran the value of the manure is estimated to be $14 50 for every ton of the bran fed; now this same bran is usually worth only $15 to $18 per ton, and there would therefore seem to be a good margin in feeding it either to milch cows or to store pigs.

Linseed cake and cotton seed cake also offer inducements in the very rich character of the manure obtained by feeding them, and it would seem that these materials ought to be used to the full extent that the stock are able to digest them and maintain their health.

The price of linseed cake is about $40 per ton, and nearly all that is made in this country is shipped to England, where it is fed to cattle and sheep with profit. Is there not an equally good margin for feeding it here?

The manure made from a ton of corn-meal is estimated as worth $6.65, and as the meal is now worth only $20.00 per ton, the value for feeding would be reduced to $13.35 per ton, at which price it would almost pay to feed to hogs even at the very low price of pork.

The manure from a ton of clover hay is estimated worth $8.64, or about as much as the hay is worth in many places; it should be well understood that clover hay ought to be fed on the farm and never sold; if any hay is to be sold let it be the English meadow, the manure from which is worth only about half as much.

The values given in this table are based upon the market value of the nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid in each case at such prices as they can be purchased in standard fertilizers such as sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate of lime and potash salts.

With this table before him any farmer will be able to make up his mind whether he will find his account in buying the fertilizers ready made, or in buying the food and the stock, and feeding with the double purpose of increasing the manure heap and of selling fatted stock or milk or dairy products to pay for the trouble and expense. We believe the skillful feeder will find a handsome margin even at the present low market value of dressed meats.

THE APPLE CROP.

A correspondent of the *Ploughman* writing from Beverly, Mass., says: — The apple crop of this year is, probably, the greatest ever known in Essex county. Many farmers have sold good Baldwin apples for fifty and sixty cents per bbl. Indeed, it is difficult to find a ready market for them at any price. It is not an uncommon thing to see trees, even now, loaded down with the ungathered fruit. Cider mills have run day and night, and still there is no dimunition of the apples that are constantly pouring in upon them.

Within a few years, an increasing attention has been given to the *corn crop* in this county. The crop of the present year is good; and it is the testimony of many good farmers, that, on the whole there are few crops that give more general satisfaction. I have planted the Compton corn for two years, and am well satisfied with results.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

At its twelfth annual session held at Richmond, Va., twenty-five States were represented by men and women, who for intelligence and culture would compare favorably with any legislative body in the country. Their deliberations were marked by an earnest desire to take such action as should aid in elevating humanity in the broadest sense. Many measures were carefully discussed and adopted, which will not only tend to the healthy growth of the organization, but will also raise it in the esteem of the best portion of the public. From the public reception given to the Grange by the Governor of Virginia; from the courtesies extended by high government officials, and also from influential transportation companies, it is evident that the organization of Patrons of Husbandry is acknowledged, a power worthy of respect, and in no time of its history has it stood better before the public, or exerted more influence for the agricultural interests of the country and for general prosperity, than at the present.

Resolutions were adopted at this session recommending all patrons to refrain from voting for candidates for any office addicted to habits of intemperance or even moderate drinking. Also in favor of requiring school teachers to instruct the children under their charge the importance of kindness to animals and of protection of insect eating birds and their nests. It was unanimously voted to petition Congress to pass laws for the more humane transportation of cattle and swine. And though disclaiming all affiliation with any political party, or partizan politics, important papers were adopted recommending careful study of all questions relating to political economy in the grange, for the purpose of being able to vote understandingly, and also recommending the election of more farmers to positions in legislative bodies, as it is found that representatives of the manufacturing, commercial and banking interest legislate for themselves and prejudicial to the interests of agriculture.

BERKSHIRE PIGS—EXPRESS CHARGES.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Seeing by an advertisement in the *Ploughman* that Mr. A. A. Southwick, Supt. of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, would sell pure bred Berkshire pigs for two dollars each, I wrote him, ordering four sow pigs and one boar pig. By return mail I received his reply, thanking me for the order and saying, "On account of your large order and prompt payment (I enclosed check with the order) I will put in an extra size sow," &c., &c. This morning the pigs came to hand and were perfectly satisfactory. I called for my *express bill* and I must confess I was surprised, and I haven't got over it yet, and that is why I am writing this.

The five little pigs—fancy stock too—cost $10.00 in Amherst, Mass., and the Express Companies charged me $9.00 for transportation, $2.00 from Boston to North Billerica, with $7.00 charges, which was the expressage from Amherst to Boston.

Now, Mr. Editor, this is the reason why many farmers are deterred from ordering improved stock from reliable breeders who are offering fine stock at very reasonable figures. The State of Massachusetts has many boards of Commissions, including bank and R. R. Commissions; now I propose one more board. I agree with Gen. Butler that many of these Commissions are utterly useless, and very expensive, but the majority of the votes have decided in favor of retaining them, and therefore while we are in general Commission and Commissioner business—I propose a board of EXPRESS COMMISSIONERS, and I would suggest that they be selected from the large number of educated and practical agriculturists who are striving to elevate farming and stock raising by the introdurtion of new and improved breeds of our domestic animals. After that board had got fairly at work and overhauled a few of these petty "common carrier" tyrants and given them a lesson or two, I think it wouldn't cost as much to transport five six-weeks' old pigs across two counties in this State as it does to buy them.

Yours very respectfully, J. M. B.

Bellerica, Mass., Nov. 29th, 1878.

AMERICAN FARMER'S FUTURE.

[Germantown Telegraph.]

The nation is looking with wondering gaze at the growth of railroad, mining and manufactures as the types of prodigious advance in material development. The farmer has learned to feel that he has a direct interest in all this, because it gives him home markets that render it unnecessarry for him to depend upon the foreign demand. But the farmer has not yet learnen (because the agricultural interest is not organized on the same scale as the industrial) that in all this opening of a higher and better cultivation he has new aims to look at, new interests to develop, new importance to understand and care for. He has not yet understood, because it is difficult for the scattered and isolated cultivator to learn these things, thus with the increased variety of manufacturet there comes openings for new crops that he can raise.

The capitalists can employ chemists and scientists to prepare processes and adopt raw materials to the arts. But the farmer has no chemist at his command and no scientist to advise him of the methods of utilizing what he wastes for the lack of knowledge. The Agricultural Department tells him at times of new crops he can raise for which there is a demand in the home markets, and it distributes seeds far and wide, some of which are always tolerably sure to fall on congenial soil. What is needed is that our American farmers should exhibit the same intelligent spirit of enterprise displayed by the inventor and manufacturers; that they also should appreciate the new spirit of American civilization, and rush forward to make agriculture not the mere follower and servant of manufactures, but the great leading and advancing interest.

☞ Take the cockerels away from the pullets and confine them in a yard by themselves till fully matured. Their progeny will be stronger and more healthy, will mature earlier and lay better for such treatment.

Questions & Answers.

FERTILIZER FOR ROSES.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Will you please inform me through the *Ploughman* what is the best fertilizer for roses, and also for tree roses, and what will kill spiders on house plants.

And oblige,

A READER OF THE PLOUGHMAN.

We know of know better fertilizer for potted roses than a tablespoonful of Peruvian guano stirred into a pailful of water and this liquid applied for watering once or twice a week. If the "red spider" is the trouble you refer to stand the pots in a sink and syringe them thoroughly twice or three times a week.—[ED.

DIPTHERIA IN FOWLS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

There is a disease going through my flock of hens by which I am losing them and if you can inform me through the *Ploughman* what it is, and what to do to stop it, you will greatly oblige a constant reader of your paper.

Their tongues seems to rot off. A young pullet died a few days ago, and just before she died I could pick her tongue all to pieces, and I have one now that the roof of the mouth seems to be all rotten and also the roots of her tongue.

They keep their mouths open and keep shaking their heads, but still seem to eat till they die.

Please answer through the columns of the *Ploughman* and oblige.

Respectfully yours, M. J.

Somerville, Dec. 1st, 1878.

The disease is a kind of diptheria, and so far as our experience goes it is incurable. It is very infectious and the flesh of the birds affected with it is unfit for food.

We cannot give any remedy that may be depended upon to cure them. We have known of whole flocks being carried off by this distemper.

If the birds were ours we should kill and bury the sick ones, and those that are well we should kill for table use immediately.

We published a long account of this disease in the *Ploughman* of a recent date.—[ED.

THE "STOCKBRIDGE FORMULA."

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

The "Stockbridge Formula" gives 41 pounds of nitrogen as the required proportion for an acre of wheat; but the bags are labeled "nitrogen from 6 1-2 to 7 per cent," or less than 30 pounds in the quantity of fertilizer *put up* for an acre. Why this difference?

RURAL.

We think "Rural" must be laboring under a mistake. If he will examine further he will find the weight of the Stockbridge Wheat Manure recommended for an acre, set down at 600 lbs. in his pamphlet for 1878. By a little mathematical calculation he will find the statement on the label and the quantity recommended for an acre to agree very nearly, furnishing the nitrogen called for (41 lbs.) if the full Stockbridge formula is applied to an acre. In manufacturing fertilizers on a large scale of 100 or 500 tons in a lot, it is difficult to get chemical accuracy, as does the chemist with his fine balances which weigh to the ten thousandth part of a grain.

The law requires that the manufacturer shall state on each package the [analysis of the contents. They cannot state it absolutely, nor can the public expect them to, but if they state within certain reasonable limits, then they have complied with the law. They cannot state absolutely, for the reason that a slight change in the per cent. of moisture from standing a long while, or from exposure, changes the per cents. of the other ingredients by so much as the moisture has decreased or increased. So Mr. Bowker says.

The Farm.

DRAIN THE SOIL.

[Prairie Farmer.]

In England the value of underdraining has long been acknowledged, and there is probably no country where it is so systematically practiced. They understand that its beneficial action is two-fold; it drains the superfluous water from the soil under excessive rains, and during drouths conserves moisture, through the admission of air into the tile, to be condensed, but more particularly into the pores of the earth when dry. This air is constantly robbed of its moisture, and is constantly replaced, and thus the conservation goes on indefinitely. On the continent of Europe, especially in Germany, draining is now being systemrtically carried on and without reference in many cases to the relative wetness or dryness of the soil, and, it is said, with beneficial results. The Hollanders have long been persistent drainers of the country, principally from the fact that much of it was so wet as to preclude cultivation until drained. Hence they have invented many curious means of freeing the land of surface water. They are especially noted when emigrating to the West for selecting lands usually regarded as of little value, for want of drainage. In Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and in other States where they have settled, they have rendered such lands among the most valuable in their States. It is the result of a well digested system of drainage and thorough cultivation, and the lessons thus taught have been appreciated by their neighbors. It is to be hoped that the impetus given to drainage of late years will not be allowed to flag, if some dry seasons should intervene. The next best time to drain, except when crops are suffering from water, is when the soil is dry.

THE UTILITY OF ENTOMOLOGY.

[San Francisco Com. Herald.]

The science of entomology is daily gaining importance, in a practical sense. The term "bug catcher," as opprobriously applied to professors, carries with it, to intelligent minds, a far higher consideration than that of millionaire. When Henry Edwards—one of the most celebrated of modern entomologists—sought to dispose of his admirable collection, worth over $25,000, for $12,000 he was snubbed by the ignorant and unreflecting who wondered what use could be made of a vast array of dead bugs. But within a few days new and hitherto unclassified insects of that sort have greatly aroused the fears of that bigger, self-conceited bug called man. The Connecticut farmers complain that their corn is being devoured in great quantities by a bug not before known. It is described as a "good-sized, six-legged, evil looking bug, rather larger and much flatter than the potato bug; in color brown, having a wide body and a very small head, provided with a pair of small feelers." From Santa Monica comes the report of a marine worm that has destroyed, or greatly injured, the wharves at that place. It is described as being very destructive, and rather more rapid in its operations than the ordinary *teredo navalis*. The secretary of a first-class entomologist would probably point out some way for preventing the depredations of these fearful pests.

☞ Hay is scarce in many localities in Minnesota, owing to the destructive prairie fires.

ABOUT CARROTS.

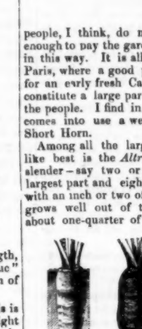
We are indebted to the publisher of "*Vick's Illustrated Magazine*" for December, for the use of the accompanying engravings illustrative of an article furnished by a correspondent of that excellent magazine, describing several varieties of carrots, as follows:

LONG RED CORELESS.—The *Long Red Coreless* is both a coreless and stump-rooted variety, growing, with me, ten or twelve inches in length and nearly two inches in diameter. The core is very small, of exactly the same color as the outside, and I judge it to be a very good variety.

HALF-LONG LUC.—This is a new variety sent out by the French, and it seems to be a

promising kind, less than a foot in length, thick and solid. I don't know what "Luc" means. (The engraving shows the form of this variety very truthfully.)

HALF-LONG SCARLET CARENTAN.—This is a very pretty little Carrot, from six to eight inches in length and nearly two inches in diameter at the top. It is as nearly coreless as any of the Carrots and of good quality.

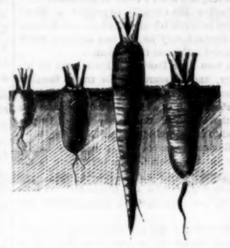


This variety I have tried three years, and I find it grows larger, that is, from seed grown in this country, perhaps; it is losing some of its original characteristics, for it is becoming more tapering.

HALF-LONG SCARLET STUMP-ROOTED.—This is a very good Carrot, and perhaps one of the best for general use, growing only six to eight inches in length and plenty of them four inches in diameter at the top. (This is figure 4 in the engraving.)

EARLY SHORT HORN. This is the best, or at least one of the best Carrots in the world for table use, and indispensible in soups. It is so short it can be pulled without trouble, and it will grow very thick without suffering injury. I have this season taken hold and pulled them up by the handful, half-a-dozen or more at a time. I have sometimes thought that as many bushels of this kind could be grown on an acre as of any other. Perhaps, however, this is not so. Five inches is the usual length.

VERY EARLY SHORT HORN. This Carrot I consider of little value for this country. It is only good for forcing—at least, it is best for this purpose, and as it is small, both top and bottom, a great many may be grown in a cold-frame or hot-bed; but American



people, I think, do not love Carrots well enough to pay the gardener for raising them in this way. It is all right for a city like Paris, where a good price can be obtained for an early fresh Carrot, and where soups constitute a large part of the sustenance of the people. I find in the open field it only comes into use a week or so before the Short Horn.

Among all the large Carrots the one I like best is the *Altringham*. It is rather slender—say two or three inches at the largest part and eighteen inches in length, with an inch or two of green at the top. It grows well out of the ground, generally about one-quarter of its length. It is the

highest-colored Carrot I am acquainted with, being a very deep orange, and it must be just the one the farmers need for coloring. It is a far better kind than most people are aware of.

THE LONG ORANGE is a favorite and common variety. I don't know that this is its true name, though of course it is good enough, for it has been so called a good many years; but I find that *James's Intermediate*, an English sort, is the same in substance, and sometimes I have thought was better.

THE OLD WHITE BELGIAN GREEN TOP is the largest of all the Carrots I have ever tried, and I have grown them two feet long and six inches through, though this is unusually large. It grows nearly half above ground, which makes harvesting quite easy, and the part above ground is green while all below is white. It is a good Carrot for feeding to stock.

THE ORANGE BELGIAN is something like the White, generally a light yellow, but differing very much in color, varying from yellow to light orange. This diversity of color I have always noticed, no matter how true in form.

The Poultry Interest.

MANAGEMENT OF POULTRY.

Management has almost everything to do with profit from poultry, and must vary with circumstances, though a few cardinal rules must always be observed. As a general rule, farmers and country people do not feed their poultry enough, and people in towns too much. They should always be fed twice a day, morning and evening, with as much as they will eagerly run after if thrown in small quantities, but no more. The consequences of too little food to birds expected to produce matter so rich in nutriment as eggs must be obvious; on the other hand, to give them as much as they can eat is not only wasteful, but in confinement will stop laying and cause ill health. The second rule is never to keep old birds, but to regularly kill and draft them off when two and a half years old, replacing by young pullets. This is a rule few attend to; but as old hens lay few eggs the need of it is obvious. Other points must depend on place and circumstance. Even on a farm the object may be eggs or chickens. For eggs, one of the Spanish varieties will usually answer best; and regular feeding, selection of young birds and careful collection of the eggs will always yield a good result—the hen-wife of course, seeing to it that as early as possible every spring a batches enough chickens to supply the place of old hens drafted off. If chickens are the object, the great aim is to get them out early, in January or even December; such birds take much care. Early sitters are obtained by the early-hatched pullets of the proceeding year, and the chickens need very frequent feeding, dry shelter, and food at night after dark; but the profit when well managed is great. In more usual proceedings, the main thing is to keep the chickens clean, and to feed regularly at least four times a day with good meal made into a crumbly paste, and a little tail wheat at night. This is where farm poultry often fails, the chickens being slighted in this way, and often given only sopped bread and barley, which for them is almost worthless, though barley is good food for fowls. The manure should be carefully gathered every week and mixed with earth for use on the farm. Many people by good management make a good profit from a few fowls in the bottom of a town garden, besides the indescribable luxury of new-laid eggs and the occupation the fowls give them. For this object also some of the Spanish kinds the most valuable answer best, the Leghorn variety often doing exceedingly well.

A wooden house, thoroughly wind and weather proof, say four feet square, and a covered run the same debth and the width of the garden, will keep half a dozed such fowls.—*Cassell's Domestic Dictionary.*

HOW TO KEEP BUTTER.

The essentials in keeping butter, in summer consist in making it properly, and having a cool place to keep it, and excluding it from the air. No butter can be safely packed in warm weather which is not perfectly made, nor can it then be kept if exposed to the air. Dairy rooms cooled with a cheap refrigerator are coming into use now among butter makers, both for setting milk and keeping butter, and with ice and salt secure a low temperature at small cost. The best packages for keeping butter a long time in warm weather are made of tin, and wood lined. When filled the cover is soldered on and made air-tight.—*Cor. New York Tribune.*

☞ Farmers who know the value of compost, and know how to make it, increase their manure pile. In this way hundreds of loads are made annually, the material being gathered on the premises, such as forest leaves, cornstalks, (including the roots,) weeds, vines, loam from fence corners, muck from ponds and ditches, occasional sprinkling of lime through the mass, layers of barnyard manure, and thus build up oblong squares and let them remain over winter.

The Horse.

THOROUGH-PIN AND BOG SPAVIN

[Prairie Farmer.]

Thorough-pin is an enlargement of the bursa between the os calcis and tibia, occasionally communicating with the general synovial cavity of the joint. It is generally produced by some excessive action. By way of treatment, if there should be any appearance of pain or inflammation, bathe with cold water, during a day or two, after which apply pressure by means of a spring truss, such as is especially made for this purpose. The average time for treatment with entire rest is from four to six weeks. If the animal is kept at work, and the truss applied only at intervals, it will still succeed, but requires a longer time. In those cases where the bursa communicates with the joint, and the result has been a bog spavin in addition, pressure does not answer. The treatment of this latter form will be that of bog spavin. Bog spavin is essentially the result of synovities (inflammation of the synovial membrane), there being an increased amount of synovial fluid in the joint, which causes the capsula to bulge on the inner or forward part, that being the weakest. In some cases the inflammation of synovial membrane is acute and the fluid is soon absorbed; but more frequently it is of a sub-acute character. The balance between effusion and the absorption being destroyed, there is a chronic filling of the joint by synovia, which has a tendency to become more or less viscid in its nature, and consequently less easily absorbed. During the time the horse is worked or being exercised, the fluid becomes more or less absorbed, and in some cases so much so that the disease may not be noticeable until the horse has been standing some time. As in the treatment of acute cases of thoroughpin, use cold water pressing, after which, if necessary, apply extensively the tincture of iodine. Firing and setoning used to be much more often resorted to than at present, in the treatment of bursal enlargements. High heel shoes ought never to be used in these cases, for if used for any length of time, they are apt to produce a more serious disease than the usual one, viz.: contracted tendons. Sometimes old standing cases of thorough-pin and bog spavin are treated successfully by the application of a few drops of sulphuric acid to the center of the surface of the enlargement, thereby producing a slough of the skin, which, if the application has not been overdone, does not leave much of a blemish. In the treatment of bursal enlargements a long rest is of great importance. In some rare instances hard tumors form at the point of bog spavin, and occasionally they may become ossified. If circumscribed, such hardened tumors may be successfully removed by dissection, which operation of course requires a skillful, steady hand to perform.

Porcine.

SOME DISEASES AMONG SWINE.

MURRAIN.—This disease resembles leprosy in symptoms, with the addition of staggering, shortness of breath, and a discharge of viscid matter from the eyes and mouth. Its treatment should consist of cleanliness, coolness, bleeding, purging and limitation of food; cloves of garlic are given; as there exists a greater or less inclination to putrefaction a decoction of bitter herbs, or a few drops of fluid extract of the same, fluid extract of camomile, given in ten drops three times a day for four days, then reduce to ten drops three times a week until a cure is effected.

QUINZY.—This is an inflammatory affection of the glands of the throat caused by a deranged state of the liver, taking a hard cold running on low damp grounds, exposed to storms and without sufficient shelter. This disease generally occurs in the spring. Treatment:—Give them the following, lobelia and ipecac enough to make them slobber pretty well, then give fluid extract of mandrake ten drops with warm sage tea, one teacupful three times a day for one day, then five drops of mandrake in the same quantity of tea in gruel, prepared of wheat bran, scalded; take sulphur, antimony, and madder—half pound sulphur, one ounce madder, one ounce antimony, mix, give half a teaspoonful once a day to a hog weighing from one hundred and upwards, less weight that weight.

TUMOURS.—These are hard swellings which make their appearance on different parts of the body. They are not formidable, and require only to progress till they soften, then make a free incision and press out the matter. Sulphur and nitre should be given in their food, as the appearance of these swellings, whatever be their cause, indicates the necessity of alterative medicines.—*Michigan Farmer.*

SPAYING SOWS.

[Dirigo Rural.

An experienced farmer gives his method of spaying sows as follows: "I have spayed hogs for thirty years, both in the side and belly, am satisfied that the latter is the better mode. So satisfied am I of the fact, that for the last fifteen years I have spayed altogether in the belly. The mode I adopt is to swing the sow up by the hind legs; the intestines then drop down forward, leaving a clear way to get at the ovaries. I then make an incision in the belly, about two and half inches in length, between the last four teats, thus reaching the ovaries readily, and cut them off. In sewing up the incision, it takes more care than in sewing up the side; for if the inner muscular coat is not taken up and sewed with the skin, it may form a pouch in which the intestines will lodge. I never had but one or two accidents of the kind to happen. The suppuration from the wound escapes more readily from incision on the belly than from the side. The best age for spaying pigs is when they are six months old. but it can be done at any age, though with more inconvenience to the animal. After the operation has been performed, it is best to turn out the hogs where they can get to water freely and wallow in the mire."

☞ On the subject of cattle disease abroad, the *Veterinarian*, an English periodical, says that cattle plague continues to exist to some considerable extent in Russia, and has extended to the following provinces in Austria-Hungary. The disease also exists in different localities in Turkey in Europe; and in the kingdom of Greece at Eubœa. Pleuro-pneumonia continues in the Netherlands, and during the four weeks from the 8th of September to the 5th of October, fifty cases were reported in eleven districts. A report from Russia during September states, the foot-and-mouth disease has prevailed in the town of Berdiansk, and that about 1,800 milch cows died from the effects of the disease.

☞ The amount of seeds distributed generally throughout the Union last year by the National Agricultural Department was nearly 2,000,000 papers of vegetable seeds, 300,000 papers of flower seeds, 3,000 papers of tree seeds, and about 5,000 bushels or grains in quart packages. For the purchase and distribution of these seeds $65,000 was expended.

Stock Department.

FEEDING COWS IN FALL.

[Rural New Yorker.]

Dairying was formerly carried on generally in a very careless, slipshod way. A cow was a cow, and was supposed to give milk from some inherent power, regardless of the manner of keeping. Now, thanks to dairymen's associations and the more careful discussions in agricultural journals, dairymen are studying their specialty with much more care and attention to all its particulars. Few now believe that they can draw milk from the udder unless it first goes in at the mouth. They do not expect the cow to produce something from nothing, and they are inquiring anxiously about the best foods to produce milk and the best methods of feeding. They study, not only the valuable characteristics of the different breeds, but the methods of perpetuating them.

This refers to the advanced dairymen; the great mass will have much to learn before they reach this point. Too many are careless about the feeding of their cows in fall. They think the season is past and that almost anything will do them now. Having got through with the factory season, they pay little attention to the further yield of milk, drying off their cows without any thought of its effect upon the next season's yield. They do not sufficiently study the cow as a milk producer, and are that secreting milk is made a matter of habit; that if a cow is well fed and the flow of milk long kept up, this habit will continue year after year until she becomes almost a perpetual milking machine. Many dairymen are wont to extol the virtue of certain cows that yield a large flow of milk in the flush of the season, taking little note of how long this yield is kept up.

The value of a cow depends much more upon the length of the milking season than upon the quantity of milk given for a few weeks. We have had cows that never gave more than 25 pounds of milk per day, and yet gave more milk during the season than others yielding even 40 pounds at the flush. The one cow would average 6½ pounds per day for 300 days, or 6,000 pounds per year; whilst the other would average only 20 pounds per day for 250 days, or 5,000 pounds per season. Now, the habit of holding out the milk was fixed in the first class at an early age, by good feeding through the whole season and careful milking. The second class had formed the habit of drying off at about eight months, although yielding a large amount for a few days, they soon fell below the other class.

This habit of giving a pretty uniform quantity of milk is influenced very much by the uniformity of feeding and milking when the cow is young. If the cow gets a generous diet only when the grass is abundant and in a very succulent state, and no attempt is made to give a full ration when the grass is short, she falls off in her milk so decidedly and it continues so long as to become permanent, and cannot be recovered when grass again becomes abundant. The most important qualification in a cow, is to hold out her milk in a generally uniform quantity. This, to a great extent, is the result of proper treatment when the cow is young. If the heifer, with her first calf, is allowed to dry off at eight months, she will be very likely to do the same thing the next season. But if the young cow is to be established in a steady flow of milk, she must be fed uniformly a full ration during the whole season.

When the grass becomes short or dried, she must have other green food or grain to make up the deficiency. This extra food is the more important as the weather becomes cold, in the fall, and the grass becomes less nutritious from touches of frost. Then the dairyman must draw on his early-cut clover or late-sown corn. This being partly cured in shock, is sweet and nutritious and cows will eat it greedily in the stable at night and morning. If these are not sufficient to keep up the full flow of milk for the season, then a small grain ration of corn meal, oats, middlings, or bran, should be given also. Greater care should be taken in milking, for the milker should be sure that every drop is drawn from the udder. The cow yields her milk less readily at this season than when she gives a larger quantity. The cool weather renders the teats more sensitive to chafing in milking.

Too great stress cannot be laid upon the importance of a full milking season of ten months, but this full milking season must always be accompanied by a full and generous ration.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE

HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE,

AT

AGRICULTURAL HALL,

HINGHAM, MASS.,

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 3, 4 and 5, 1878.

"FARM LAW."

JUDGE BENNETT'S ADDRESS.

In an article upon the Rights and Duties of Farmers, we shall naturally be expected to treat of those rights and duties which are peculiar to farmers, or rather such as are peculiarly important to them; and if you find me unusually dry in my presentation of it you will remember that it is an unusually dry subject, though to those pecuniarly concerned not wholly devoid of interest. And naturally the first inquiry is

How to Buy a Farm.

It is quite generally known that a mere oral bargain for a farm is not binding in law upon the owner, but it may not be so well understood that an offer to sell a farm for a given price, even though it be by letter, or other simple writing, may not be binding upon the proposer until it is actually accepted by the buyer, and he has also agreed to have it and pay the price stated in the offer. Therefore the owner may retract his offer to sell at any time before it is accepted and he is notified thereof. And although in making his offer to sell he should expressly give you a certain number of days in which to decide, he may nevertheless change his mind in the meantime and sell to another who offers a higher price, even before the given time has expired, and you would have no legal redress for your disappointment.

Nay, more; although you had fully made up your mind to take the farm, but had not notified the vendor of that fact, and should go to great trouble and expense in buying stock, tools, agricultural implements, etc., to carry on the farm, and should even move your family there to take possession, the owner might even then refuse to sell, and you would have no legal remedy either to compel him to convey or for the expenses you had thus incurred, relying upon his keeping his word. The only safe way in such cases is to take a *bond* for a deed, as it is called; an ordinary "refusal" of property, for a stated time, as it is termed, is a dangerous thing to rely upon, unless you are dealing with a man "whose word is as good as his bond," and they are very scarce. And if a particular time is given you in which to accept an offer to sell, you should be particular to signify your acceptance strictly within the time, and to do so entirely unconditionally. In one instance a man had ten days in which to make up his mind, and on the night of the last day, about half-past eleven at night, he called at the owner's house, after he was abed and asleep, and said he would take the farm. The owner refused to get up or to take the money the next day, and the buyer tried to get the farm by a suit at law. He was decided to be in the same too late, on the last day, and he not only lost his trade, but had to pay the costs of his suit (26 Miss., 309.) In another case A. wrote to B. he would sell him his farm for $3000 cash. B. wrote back immediately he would take it if A. would make out his deed and send it to a lawyer for examination, and if all right the lawyer would pay him the $3000, but it was decided that B. had not duly accepted A.'s offer, and consequently that he might withdraw it (13 Me., 511.) But suppose the grantor is willing to give you a deed, it is unnecessary to say that it must have the seal of the grantor attached, or it is not sufficient. A scroll of the pen or the letters L. S. are not used in Massachusetts, as in some other States. It may not be as well understood that it is not equally necessary that a deed should be witnessed or acknowledged and recorded. These last requisites may be necessary to make the deed valid against the creditors of the grantor, or any one who subsequently bought the farm without notice of the prior deed; and it is also always so important they should never be neglected, and my first advice to you is that if you find any unrecorded deeds among your papers when you go home, you attend to that duty forthwith. Having once obtained a sufficient deed, the next question seems to be,

How far the Farm Extends,

Or its proper boundaries. Three circumstances have more or less weight in determining this question; 1st, the number of acres stated in the deed; 2d, the length of the boundary lines running around the farm; 3d, the monuments inclosed within the visible monuments, such as trees, rocks, stake and stones, described as corners of the farm. Of these three the last is by far the most important, and in case of any difference between them controls all the rest. If the boundary lines are described as beginning at a certain stake and stones, thence to a certain tree, thence to a particular rock or stump, and so quite around the farm, the deed conveys all the land inside of those monuments, although it may contain many acres than the deed calls it; and on the other hand it will include no more, although the number of acres stated really requires more land to satisfy its number. So if the monuments named are fixed and definite, they control the length of the side lines mentioned in the deed, and if these be called 100 feet long on every side, and the trees, rocks, stake and stones described as corners are only 90 feet apart, the buyer will acquire a lot only 90 feet square, and not 100 feet; and *vice versa*, if the lines are described as only 90 feet long, but the given corners are 100 feet distant, the deed covers a lot 100 feet square. The quantity of acres mentioned is the very weakest means of knowing the extent of the farm, even if the words "more or less" be not used, as is so commonly done, and generally speaking a deficiency in number of acres gives the buyer no remedy against the seller for any return of part of the purchase money unless perhaps where it was clearly bought at the rate of so much per acre. So much more important are the known monuments and boundaries than the number of acres stated, that even if the vendor fraudulently and intentionally overstates the quantity, in order to deceive the purchaser, the latter has no redress, if so be the other truly pointed out the boundaries in making the trade (102 Mass. 217;) whereas a fraudulent statement of the boundaries would annul the sale, even though the farm contained as many or even more acres than the parties called it by in making the bargain (9 N. Y. 183.)

If a boundary line runs to a tree, rock, stump, or other similar object, it goes to the centre of the object if a tree is by a wall or fence it passes along the middle of it, and not by the side, which in a "Virginian fence" might be of some consequence.

So if the farm bounds by or on a brook, river, stream, etc., it usually extends to the middle of the current; not always to the middle of the *water*, but to the thread of the stream—*ad filum aquæ*. If there be any islands between that centre line and the bank they belong to the owner of the main bank. In like manner if a deed is bounded on a mill pond, reservoir pond, or any artificial pond through which a perceptible current makes its way, the farmer ordinarily owns to the centre of the current; on the other hand, if it is a large natural pond, or lake the line stops at the low water mark on the shore, and does not extend into the pond, the public having rights in such large bodies of water as are useful for navigation, boating, sailing and the like.

As to farms bounding on the seashore some peculiar provisions as to the extent thereof exist in this State.

That strip of land between high and low water mark, generally termed "the flats," is a property subject of contention, and the question is often made to whom it belongs; whether to the owner of the upland or to the public. By force of a very early law in Massachusetts (contrary to that of most of the sea coast States), if a deed describes the farm as bounding "by the sea," "by the salt water," "by, harbor, cove, creek, stream, river, or tide water," it generally includes the whole flats down to low water mark, if not over 100 rods, including the exclusive right to gather the sea weed, or other such things washed up thereon by the tide. On the other hand if the deed bounds "by the shore," "beach, strand, flats, marsh or cliff," it extends only to high water mark, and does not give any right to the flats.

While yet again—such are the niceties of the law—if the phrase of the deed is "to the beach *or sea*," "to the sea shore," "to the sea *or* flats," the grantee owns down to low water mark, flats and all. In view of such nice and subtle distinctions, one is tempted to exclaim with the Ezri of Warwick in Shakespeare's Henry VI:

"Between two hawks, which flies the higher pitch,
Between two dogs, which hath the deeper mouth,
Between two horses, which doth bear him best,
Between two girls, which hath the merriest eye,
I have, perhaps, some shallow spirit of judgment,
But in these nice sharp quillets of the law,
Good faith, I am no wiser than a daw."

What a Deed of a Farm Includes.

Of course every one knows it conveys all the fences standing on the farm, but all might not think it

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, -- BOSTON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1878.

upon them and bites one severely, you may be liable to heavy damages, although the dog was never known to bite before. (4 Allen, 431). And this is so, although the dog is duly licensed and collared. The object of a dog tax was not to exempt the owner of a dog, when known, for his former liability for all his dog's mischief, but to provide a fund for the remuneration of the farmer, when the owner was not known, or was not pecuniarily responsible. Accordingly any man injured in his person or property by a dog may now have either mode of redress; he may file his claim with the Selectmen and take simply the amount of damages he may have sustained, or he may go for the owner of the dog and get double damages, if he can, but he cannot try both methods. If he is paid his simple damage out of the dog tax, the County may compel the owner of the guilty dog to refund the amount paid out, but no man is obliged to wait until the mischief is done, and then seek redress by the law's delay. You may take the law into your own hands, and kill any dog, licensed or not, that suddenly assaults you while peaceably walking or riding in the public streets, and so you may if the dog is found out of the enclosure or care of the owner, wounding, worrying, or killing any neat cattle, sheep or lamb

If a dog is not licensed your right to kill him is much broader. The law says: You may kill him "wherever or wherever found." These are its exact words. But if you think this authorizes you to kill him on his owner's premises, and should pursue him into the owner's house and then kill him, contrary to his owner's wishes, you might find out your mistake by being compelled to say, not only the full value of the dog, but also for unlawful entry several other hundred less (11 Allen 151; 109 Mass. 276). "Whenever and wherever found," therefore, don't mean exactly what it says. Such are the quirks of the law. Some people call it a sort of "hocus pocus science."

Again, do not think that because you can openly and publicly shoot an unlicensed dog which is hanging around your premises and worrying the family you can therefore poison him, for even the exposing of any poison for that purpose, whether the dog touches it or not, may cost you $200 and the costs of prosecution. And this is very moderate, considering that for the malicious poisoning of some other domestic animals—even a sucking calf—you may obtain a free residence in that splendid new State building at Concord for five years, unless you see fit to break out before that time. Thus much for the law of dogs. And the only crumb of consolation I can offer on this subject is this: if two dogs, yours and your neighbor's, go off on a joint raid on a flock of sheep, you are bound to pay only for those your dog killed, and not the others, if anybody can find out which was which (20 Pick., 477); whereas if the two owners of the dogs go out together to rob a melon patch, either one is liable for all the melons carried away; so that in one respect the law seems to favor the dogs. On the other hand, as a man is not liable for any mischief which his boys may do while trespassing on other people's grounds, in this respect again the law is rather against the dogs.

Water Rights and Drainage.

Water is flowing and fleeting, and the rights of farmers therein are much of the same kind. If a stream of water flows through a farm, the owner has a right to use any reasonable quantity of it, as it flows along, for watering his cattle, irrigating his land, or supplying his house for domestic use; but he must not monopolize the whole. His neighbor's cattle must have water also. He has to some extent changed the course and flow of the brook on his own land, provided he turns it back into the natural channel before it reaches the land below him. He has no right to conduct it into his neighbor's land, without his consent, at a different point or place than where it naturally entered therein. He may build fish ponds, or otherwise dam up the stream, provided he does not thereby flow back on the land above him. If he does so he is liable to a suit for trespass, and finally, if he continues it, to an injunction. A farmer acquires no right to flow another's land, without his consent, as a mill-owner has, as the statutes giving such right, upon payment of a fair compensation, apply only to milldams and the like, and if you build your harbor now you does dam up the stream as to flow back on you, you may enter on his land and take down enough of the obstruction to relieve your land of the overflow.

So if a natural stream becomes obstructed by leaves, sticks and rubbish, you have a right to go on to the land and remove the obstructions, so that the water will flow as freely as before (5 Met. 429;) and the natural deposits you may place on the banks of the stream (21 Pick. 341). The same rules prevail as to artificial water courses or ditches, except where you have acquired a right to have such running through another's lands. But you have not ordinarily such a right unless you or your predecessors have purchased the privilege of him, or have enjoyed it so long and under such circumstances as to have thereby gained a *prescriptive right*, as it is called, or else have obtained it in the manner specified by commissioners appointed by the Court under General Statutes, c. 148.

The rights and liabilities of farmers in *surface water* are very different in this State from those in flowing or running streams. By "surface water" is meant not only that which comes from falling rains and melting snows, but also that which oozes out of the ground from springs, or marshy places and which finds its way over the surface, or through the tussocks, but is not gathered into a bed or current like a brook or rivulet. When once collected into a stream, with a bed and banks, it loses its character as surface water and becomes subject to different rules. But so long as it is only surface water, any man on whose land it is has a right to detain the use of the whole of it, on his own land and for his own purposes, and is not bound to let any portion of it flow on to the land below, unless he wishes. On the other hand he may turn the whole or any of it on the premises below him, whether grass land or cultivated field, even though it be a serious injury to such neighbor. (120 Mass. 89.) If the latter wishes to protect himself he must build up some embankment at the edge of his land, and stop the flow, as he has a perfect right to do, although he thereby makes quite a pond above, and injures the crop there. And as the farmer may turn the surface water from his own land into yours, without being liable, so a highway surveyor may conduct the water on to you, even though it sweeps sand and gravel into your best mowing. If he turns a *water-course* on to you in that way, you may appeal to the selectmen, under General Statutes, chapter 44, sec. 10, to have it changed, but surface water you must take or dam it up; that you can do, but you ought not to damn the surveyor for turning it on to you.

As to *underground* water, the law does not recognize any right of owner-ship therein, and consequently if your neighbor's well is fed by springs or underground rills flowing in his land, you may dig down to any depth you please, and near to the line, and if by chance you cut off the supplies to his well and leave it dry, he must bear it as well as he can (120 Mass. 89). But you must be careful in digging not to let his land cave into your excavations, or you may be responsible therefor.

Trespassing on the Farm.

The general rules in regard to trespassing on another's lands are pretty well understood, in the community, but on one point there is a common an erroneous impression. It is often thought that it a person simply crosses your land for twenty years he thereby always acquires a right to continue the practice, but this, as from being universally true, the very foundation of acquiring such a right—prescriptive right, as it is called—is that the crossing must have been adversely to the land owner, contrary to his wishes, or at least without his permission, express or implied, and under a claim of a legal right so to do, whether the farmer is willing or not. If therefore the person crossing does so with the permission, or by the mere indulgence of the land owner, and not under any claim of right, it is wholly immaterial how long the custom has continued. Forty years' travel by consent of the owner would not give any right to continue to pass after he had been forbidden to do so. And to avoid any misapprehension in such cases, it is wise for the farmer to put up notices forbidding it, as we so often see done. And this not only makes it clear that the offender was the intruder is a trespasser, but by a recent law in this State he is also made liable to a fine of $20 for willfully crossing or entering upon any garden, orchard mowing land, or other improved land, between the first day of April and the first day of December. (Sts. 1876, c. 131.)

By this law the willful trespassing on such lands during the summer and fall months is made a crime, and any constable or other officer may arrest the offender on the spot and take him before some proper tribunal for trial and sentence. But to all other seasons of the year, or as to any other kinds of lands, such a trespass is only a civil trespass, not a crime, and the only legal remedy is by an action for damages done, which may be very unsatisfactory.

If, however, a man's object in coming into your premises is to steal your fruit, cranberries, or other crops, that itself is a crime, although he does not accomplish his purpose, and you may put him out by force, and if he refuses to leave on no unnecessary violence. But you cannot lawfully set spring guns, man traps, or other instruments which may do him grievous bodily harm, without giving notice of such to all dangers. (4 Bing., 628; 37 Iowa, 613.) The old school books in my early days had a picture of boys stealing fruit in the boughs of an apple-tree, with a farmer picking up stones, and a maxim that if words and grass did not answer he might throw stones, but if you should happen to put out the boy's eye it might go hard with you, for you have not a right to kill even your neighbor's hens while scratching up your melons and cucumbers. The custom to do so, and toss the fowls over the fence, may afford some satisfaction to the gardener, but it may make him liable to pay the full value of the nuisances, although he had repeatedly warned their owner to keep them at home, or take the consequences. (14 Conn., 1; 107 Mass., 406.) Whether this rule applies to an old cat which is after one's chickens I don't know, but I mean to try it the first chance I have.

One of the most annoying forms of trespass to the farmer is that of hunting and fishing. Many persons seem to suppose that, by force of some general custom or otherwise, they have a right to hunt or fish over another's ground as they please, but this is quite erroneous (4 Pick. 145). In all ordinary streams and ponds the right to fish belongs solely to the person owning the adjoining land. If the stream is navigable, that is, if the tide ebbs and flows, the public have a right to boat up and down it, and to fish from their boats, but not to go on shore to do it. And by a very early law in Massachusetts, if a farm contains a "great pond"—i. e., a pond containing over ten acres—the public have a right of fishing and fowling there, "and may pass and repass on foot through any man's p operty for that end, so they trespass not on any man's corn or meadow."

The recent laws authorizing Fish Commissioners to lease large ponds to private parties may of course modify the former rights of the public therein.

As to salt water fishing the law is somewhat peculiar, for although the owner of the upland ordinarily owns the land down to low water mark, as before stated, yet any other person may go there and dig clams or other shell fish, if he can do so by water, and without crossing the upland in going or returning. (8 Cush., 347, 7 Gray, 440.) The Legislature may sometimes abridge or modify this right, but the ordinary rule is as above stated.

Finally.

The question often arises who owns the fruit of a tree standing near the boundary line between two proprietors. It is generally supposed that the fruit on the limbs overhanging one's land belongs to him, *but this is an entire mistake*. If a tree stands wholly on your land, although some of the roots extend into the soil of your neighbor, and derives support and nourishment from his soil, he has no right to any of the fruit which hangs over the line (11 Conn. 177; 38 Vt. 105; 25 N. Y. 126). And if he a tempts by force to prevent you from picking it he is liable for an assault and bat ery (46 Bart. 337; 48 N. Y. 201).

In one instance a lady, while standing on the fences picking cherries which hung over the line, was forbidden to do so by the adjoining owner, who was at work in his garden, and in the scuffle to prevent her, she received some bruises on her arm, for which he had the pleasure of paying the neat little sum of $100! If your fruit falls into your neighbor's lot you have an imp lett license in law to go and pick it up, doing him no unavoidable damage.—(113 Mass. 376. 12 Vt. 273).

If, however, a fruit tree stands directly in the division line, and is what is called a "line tree," both parties own the tree and fruit in common, and neither can cut down the tree or seriously injure it without being responsible to the other. (12 N. H. 454; 34 Barb. 547; 25 N. Y. 123.

Sometimes persons are tempted to poison or secretly kill a neighbor's tree of some kind which stands near the fence and casts a baneful shade on their garden plot, but this is dangerous business, and the party doing so may possibly find himself in the county jail, where the quarters are apt to be small and not always very clean! The safer way in such cases is to cut off the limbs which hang over your side, which undoubtedly you have a legal right to do; but it would not be safe to use the limbs for firewood or otherwise convert them to your own use, lest you have to pay their value, more or less. I have thus imperfectly touched upon some of the leading rights and liabilities of farmers, and if, in the brief time allotted me, I have been able to impart any valuable information, or save you from the many entanglements of the law, or even so interest you, but for the passing hour, my purpose has been accomplished

At the close of his address Judge Bennett answered several inquiries from different ones in the audience. The lecture commanded the closest attention of its hearers, and at its close was heartily applauded.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 1878.

The rumor that Attorney General Devens will resign his seat in the Cabinet, and take the office of Circuit Judge, last held by Judge Shepley, of Maine, strengthens in the general belief every day. It will be decided very shortly.

The railroad war and its practical results command the most current attention in the business community. It is producing a decided effect in certain leading channels of trade and commerce.

The late Joseph B. Eaton leaves by will the sum of $80,000, to the Young Men's Christian Union, of this city, of which he was a Life Member.

The cotton crop is reported much above an average. It will overstep the limit of five million bales. Three-quarters of the crop are now gathered, and the promise is very favorable for the harvesting of the rest.

The vendetta prevails in a county in Kentucky, and nothing could be more vindictive or bloody. Four persons were killed in one day, and six more were seriously wounded.

The details of the assassination of Don Manuel Pardo, ex-President of Peru, and at the time of his death President of the Senate, are just published. He was shot in the back by a sergeant of the guard while entering the Senate, and expired in two hours.

Mr. Lockyer, of England, claims to have discovered that the spectroscope does not correctly analyze and determine the composition of the sun and the planets. If so, the new instrument will have to be laid aside.

THE NATIONAL BANKS.

Less than a score of years have passed since the passage of the law by the National Congress which brought i to existence the National Banks. Previous to their existence, all banking institutions authorized to issue bills as a circulating medium were of State creation, and every State had its peculiar and individual basis upon which to establish the redemption and security of its bills. So varied were the systems, that in many of the States redemptions were obtained with so much difficulty that bank notes issued by banking institutions in those States were regarded with suspicion even by the citizen of the States where they were issued, and were not current outside of the State lines.

In New England our system of redemption was at first established through the medium of the Suffolk Bank, which bank required a deposit in proportion to the Bank capital of the individual Bank for which it redeemed. Afterward the Banks to a large extent united in the establishment of the Redemption Bank, and these two central Banks in the city of Boston, redeemed the issue of the several State Banks in New England. If the notes of any New England bank were thrown out by the Suffolk or Redemption, they at once ceased to be current funds and were rejected by the whole community, and the bank bills were treated as a foot-ball for brokers and speculators, out of which more or less fortunes were realized by these men at the expense of the unfortunate holders.

As will at once appear, these bank notes ceased to be current funds when much beyond their local lines—even when so perfectly established as were the redemption for New England State Bank bills.

The establishment of the National Banks was a new era in the history of American banking. A basis of security, entirely original in conception and idea, was devised, in the form of a government bond—ninety thousand dollars of bills being allowed upon every one hundred thousand dollars of bonds—and these bonds to be deposited in trust with the United States Treasurer, to be sold and the proceeds used in the redemption of these bills in case of any failure on the part of the bank in its ability to redeem at its own counter or through its authorized redemption agency.

These bills were also printed by the Government, in a uniform style, and of late years upon paper manufactured solely by the Government, of such peculiar construction that counterfeiting is made almost impossible. With the introduction of the National Banks, came a currency equally good in every part of the country. Counterfeits were easily discovered. The great losses which occurred to merchants living at remote distances from great financial and business circles in the transmission of remittances at once passed away—and a dollar note of a National Bank issued in the farthest eastern section of the country was equally good and current on the most westerly coast of the Republic.

Farther than this.—The depositors in these new National Banking institutions were protected as well as the note holders. Every stockholder being liable in a sum equal in amount to the par value of his stock for the payment of all deposits standing to the credit of the bank's depositors.

For the privilege of issuing these bank notes and doing a banking business under the National Banking Act, the Banks paid into the national treasury a tax on deposits of three million four hundred forty-five thousand dollars and a tax of two million eight hundred and ninety-nine thousand dollars on circulation in the year 1877—and a tax of six hundred and fifty-four thousand dollars on capital not invested in Government Bonds.

Thus it will be seen that we have by the system of National Banks a currency equally good in all parts of the country—thoroughly protected against loss by counterfeiting or failure—perfect protection to depositors—and a vast revenue to the Government by the payment of taxes on circulation—deposits and capital not invested in government bonds. It is now seriously argued that the government should annul the charters of the National Banks and issue in place of National Bank notes an equal amount of what is called greenbacks or legal tenders.

Upon the constitutional right of the Government to issue any currency except gold and silver there has always been a division in the Supreme Court—and the original argument urged for the issue of greenbacks, was based upon a necessity as a war measure, recognizing always, that upon the termination of the necessity, the greenbacks would be redeemed in the constitutional currency of the country—to wit—gold and silver.

Again, the abolition of the National Banks would greatly affect the revenues of the country, by giving us a currency not subject to taxation and by depriving the treasury of the millions now received as tax upon deposits.

Again—the destruction of the National Banks would remove from every merchant and business man, the ability to deposit his daily receipts in a place of absolute security and drive him to the personal care and responsibility of his money—which would encourage robbery by increasing the temptation in making every home of a business man a place of money deposit.

Again—this acknowledged perfect system of banking—by being at once abolished would work great demoralization to all business and would add consternation as well as distress to the already suffering condition of our national finances.

If a banking system has been devised which gives perfect protection to the bill holder—who is the laboring man in every department of human industry—which gives absolute protection to the depositor, who is the merchant, farmer and business man of the nation—which has given an income to the national treasury of nearly a hundred millions of dollars since 1863—which is so harmonious and perfect in its workings, that scarcely an amendment has been needed to lubricate it, we trust the people will pause and think carefully before they destroy that which has worked so well and proved so satisfactory to give place again to the wild cat banks of the olden time out of which stock jobbers and brokers grew rich and farmers and laborers lost their hard earned savings.

CONGRESS.

The ruling temper of Congress appears so far to be a business one strictly, and the entire session is generally spoken of as being a quiet and uneventful one. The opposition to the Resumption measures seems to be agreed on waiting and giving them a fair chance, interposing no further obstacles whatever. There was a vote in the House, however, that meant war with the Banks so long as they refuse to take silver except on special deposit, and to pay out for it the equivalent of gold. Senator Edmunds introduced his Electoral Bill on Monday, and there were numerous other bills presented on the same day in both branches. The sugar tariff, the naval bill, the postal-car appropriation, and the bill for the issue of certificates of deposit in aid of refunding, have been the chief features of the week's work. An adjournment is pretty nearly decided on from the 21st. inst. to the 6th. of January, which will leave remaining almost two months of legislation.

PARLIAMENT AND WAR.

If the Afghanistan war is in one sense a war of invasion in the heart of Asia, in another sense it is a war of invasion in the British Parliament, and there is where it is to be fought out with the most energy. It is the financial side of it that will determine the other. There was an unusually stirring debate in both Houses of Parliament on the war, on the first of the week, and a great many feelings and opinions which have been put up since the treaty was signed at Berlin were let out freely and fully for the first time. The British public are not to be deceived about the meaning or cost of the present war. They realize something of what they have got to be called on to pay for transporting army supplies five hundred miles into the interior, over mountain roads, and they command a halt where they now are. It is not regarded as a very skillful piece of management to allow the financial question to come into Parliament at this stage of the war, but it seems that the Opposition had made the most of their chance and are resolved to force the issue as fast and far as they can. There is no doubt that by this means they will hurt Beaconsfield's policy and position more than by any other at present. There may be a sort of romance in a programme which is intended to dazzle the eyes of the public with its brilliancy, but it will probably all dissipate before the hard fact of the final cost, which will be called its foolishness.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR READERS.

The collection of good and rare books which it took a Troy lawyer twenty years to make, has been on sale at one of the New York auction rooms during the week. In an interview with their owner, who says he loves books as he does pictures, it was learned that he had read every one of the books in his collection except "Pilgrim's Progress," although he thinks it is some thing which the collectors of books generally fail to do. He made it a rule never to buy a book that he did not want to read more than once, or did not use for constant reference. He testifies that there is a great satisfaction in reading a handsome book.

As for leisure, he says he has always found time enough; and he has very rarely read or worked later than eleven o'clock at night. He remarked that "men frequently tell me they have no time for reading. Why, do you know what a man can read in one year? By reading one chapter a day he can read Gibbon's 'Roman Empire,' Merivale's 'Roman Empire,' Hume's 'England,' Macauley's 'England,' Prescott's 'Ferdinand and Isabella,' Guizot's 'France,' and Motley's 'Dutch Republic' and 'United Netherlands.' It takes me just about as much time after dinner as most men waste over newspapers and talking politics." Now there is something to think of. Just let a person limit his field of reading or study and do something each day, and see where the end of the year will find him.

CONTINENTAL MONEY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

[From the History of Gardner, by the Rev W. D. Herrick, just issued.]

It is a fact within the memory of those still living that sharp, unfeeling men, in those days [of Continental money], came out into the country from the cities and purchased farms, paying for them in Continental money, which soon became worthless to the receiver, so that in reality he lost his farm. But if some men who were in debt to others were anxious to pay because they had the money, there were, on the other hand, those in debt who were not able to pay. Hence they were greatly distressed by suits brought against them. Creditors fell without mercy upon their debtors, and, for want of better laws regarding these matters, he who first laid suit had his full claim allowed. If anything was left, the next who came was in like manner served till all were paid or the man's possessions had been all taken away. Suits at this time were surprisingly numerous; no less than ten thousand actions were entered during the year 1774 in the court of common pleas in Worcester. . . . Whoever will take the pains to review the journals of the Massachusetts house of representatives for the period of which we are now speaking will be struck with the frequency with which petitions from many of the towns of the State are there found, praying for the abatement of taxes on account of inability to pay. These petitions are an indication of the universal distress that was then felt on account of depreciated currency, combined with other causes. The result was general distress and impending financial ruin. The people thus disturbed would naturally look to the State government for relief. It was with our fathers as it is with us; if there was hard times, growing out of the unsettled condition of the currency, or from an overstocking of the markets of the world, or from whatever cause, there is always a feeling resting in the public mind that the government is responsible, and if one administration cannot remove the troubles another must be substituted for it. In Amerieo, from the beginning, every man regards himself as a political economist equal to Smith, Mill, Bowen or Wayland, and fully competent to point out the causes of all financial difficulties, and the wisest manner in which they may be remedied.

A Valuable Lecture.—The lecture read before the meeting of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture at Hingham, last week, by Hon. E. H. Bennett, of Taunton, on "The Legal Rights and Duties of Farmers," is published from the full text in the present issue of this paper. We need not do more than call the special attention of the readers of the *Ploughman* to it, and add that it is a peculiarly timely and valuable production. A familiar knowledge of his rights and duties must be conceded to be of the first importance to the farmer, who thereby elevates himself in the esteem of his fellow-citizens and strengthens his position at every point. A careful perusal of Mr. Bennett's address will not fail to instruct and gratify all who bestow upon it that most deserved amount of their attention.

The City Election.—The election of a new City Government occurred in several of the cities of the Commonwealth on Tuesday last, including Boston. The result in this city was the choice of ex-Mayor Prince, by a plurality of 1578, the election of nine Democratic aldermen to three Opposition, of forty democratic members of the Common Council against thirty-two Opposition, and of the entire School Board put up by the Democrats. The vote was from ten to twelve thousand smaller than that cast in the city at the recent State election, and the day was one of the most stormy character. Thus the new City Government is thoroughly Democratic. And now the elections are all over, the next thing is the Holidays and the Resumption of specie payments. It ought to be a good winter for all of us, with nothing but the Holiday season and reviving business ahead.

A Popular Loan.—The city of Boston is to offer a fresh loan to the public, amounting to one million dollars at four per cent. interest, to defray the expense of making the improvements now taking place in the Sewerage system. The loan is to be offered in sums of fifty, one hundred, and one thousand dollars, the bonds of the latter denomination being both coupon and registered, but the others being coupon bonds only. Subscriptions by any one individual are to be limited to ten thousand dollars up to February next, after which they may be made to suit the parties subscribing.

The National Debt.—The Ways and Means Committee of Congress has agreed on a bill authorizing the issue of certificates of deposit in aid of refunding the National debt. Certificates of deposit of the denomination of Ten dollars, bearing interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum, and convertible at any time with accrued interest into four per cent. bonds described in the Refunding Act, are to be issued in exchange for lawful money of the United States; and the money so received is to be applied only to the payment of the Five Twenty bonds in the mode described by that Act, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to prescribe suitable rules and regulations in conformity with the present act of Congress authorizing this issue. It will be seen that by this plan the 3.65 interest which the certificates were originally to bear has been reduced to 3 per cent., and that the measure is expected to work like a universal savings bank for the people. They can invest sums as small as ten dollars in a certificate of deposit bearing 3 per cent. interest, and they can fund them in a regular four per cent. bond.

The Jewish Fair.—This great novelty in the Fair line is to come off in Boston on Tuesday next, and the preparations for making it a success have been pushed with great energy. The display will be in all senses peculiar. At no Fair ever yet held in this country has there been seen so large, varied and rich a collection of treasures as will be exposed to the public on this occasion. The Jews are well known to be possessors of precious things, and they contemplate making an exhibition of them at this time which will dazzle the eyes of all beholders. But not only ornamental; the useful also will be brought to view in a marvellous profusion. The object of the Fair is to pay off a church debt.

Resumption Day.—As the first of January, the day for the resumption of specie payments, approaches, the business feeling brightens and gains confidence more and more. There is not even that anxiety displayed which is usually noted during the closing weeks of the year. A leading New York journal says in regard to financial matters that every one is easy about the resumption of gold payments on New Year's Day, and asks what is to hinder the realization of the benefit of the change even before it occurs. The only demand for gold, it remarks, until January, is for foreign exchange, and it thinks the time has come for our foreign bankers to draw their bills for currency, as well as to buy commercial bills for currency. The act of resumption will be so imperceptible that very few people will be aware that anything has happened.

New York and Boston.—There is considerable agitation among the New York merchants because of the increasing favor paid to Boston by the shippers of through freights from the West direct to Liverpool. Boston shippers are credited with having made renewed efforts to control trade, and the result is described as a general and irregular "cutting" of rates on part both of steamships and railroads, and chiefly in provision freights. A number of instances are given of Boston shippers having contracted for the forwarding of heavy contracts to Liverpool. They include some of the heaviest shippers of grain and provisions. New York men concede that Boston has an advantage in the lower cost of handling freights after they arrive here, owing to the greater facilities.

The Electric Light.—Edison was to have had a patent issued to him this week for his method of securing light from electricity. We have only recently heard of the possibility of producing the power he requires by the use of the permanent magnet instead of by steam, which would thus effect a double revolution in the furnishing of light, if not of heat likewise. The mode of separating and distributing the light is what has thus far given the inventor his chief trouble, since the principle of giving light by electricity has been known for some time past. The world will await the results of the new process with an interest felt in but few things before.

A Wizard's Will.—Heller, the well-known wizard, who died recently in Philadelphia after a very brief illness, left directions in his will for the destruction of the various apparatus, called magical, which he left behind him, unwilling that another should reap any advantage from tric s and combination which he had all his life been inventing and combining. His half sister will be his administratrix, and as she claims that he verbally made different representations respecting the apparatus before he died, it will probably be preserved and sold to some wizard yet to appear.

The New Drying Process invented by Mr. Geo. Woods, the ingenious Organ and Piano maker, of Cambridgeport, Mass., is proving of much advantage to all who dry materials of any kind, (particularly lumber,) and has lately been introduced into cotton factories with great success. It is very simple and inexpensive; can be used in any form of dry room, and not only accomplishes the work in one-fourth the time, but greatly improves the quality of the material. The tendency to fires in the dry room is also much lessened.

☞ Twenty tons of confectionery have been already ordered for their holiday trade by C. D. Cobb & Bros., the great grocers, and probably near double this enormous amount will be sold over their counters ere the season is over. If such are their candy sales, what must their transactions in staple groceries be, as they handle everything else in the same proportions? And what advantages they must be able to give their customers. Let the reader of the *Ploughman* neglect to read their advertisement in another column. It will pay.

Brain and Nerve Food.—Vitalized Phosphates composed of nerve-giving principles of the ox brain and wheat germ. Physicians have prescribed 150,000 packages with good results in all forms of impaired vitality, mental exhaustion or weakened digestion. It is the best preventiva of consumption and all diseases of debility. It gives quiet, rest and sleep by feeding the brain and nerves. For sale by Druggists.—F. Crosby, 666 Sixth Ave., N. Y.

☞ *More Classics of Babyland.*—An amusing and entertaining work for little folks, published by D. Lothrop & Co., Boston—beautifully illustrated, and will be welcomed by all children as one of the most acceptable of holiday books. It is published in quarto form, and the poems are recitals in rhyme of the legends of ancient time.

☞ *Little Miss Mischief*—by D. Lothrop & Co., Boston. A most beautifully illustrated account of a little girl who always wanted her own way and yet aspired to be useful in her child life. Her constant trouble awakens the sympathy, whilst her good intention makes up for her unfortunate meddling. The book will prove very attractive to juvenile students.

☞ Scab in sheep is receiving the attention of the authorities of New Zealand. They propose to rid the country of the pest if possible.

READ AND RUN.

—The tramps call it "running the blockade," to go through New Hampshire.

—Secretary Thompson, of the Navy Department, is another of our great smokers.

—The debt of Florida has been reduced to a minimum.

—The Holiday movement is fairly on foot, and with the aid of the snow the present week opened lively.

—Boston has had its great regular rubber sale in the week, which was a highly successful one.

—The cotton crop of the current year is now stated to be over five million bales.

—The Financial Chronicle of New York says that the first week of Congress has visibly inspired confidence among business men in that city. Disturbing legislation is not so much dreaded as it was.

—The general strike among the laborers in the pork-packing houses of Chicago makes serious business of it for this largest of the interests of that city.

—A chimney one hundred and sixty feet high has just been completed at the pork-packing works of Charles H. North & Co., East Somerville.

—The saved Captain of the lost steamer Pomeroyania has made a statement of the case from his standpoint, exonerating and praising the crew of his ship.

—England having received her five and a half millions from us with a protest annexed, she will soon be called on to settle for the damage to our fishermen by the Fortune Bay outrages.

—The Ameer of Afghanistan has all at once changed his tone towards England.

—A white dove recently flew down and alighted on the hearse forming part of a funeral procession, at Turner's Falls, in this State.

—Turkey has officially expressed a strong desire to cultivate friendly relations with Austria.

—There are very nearly two millions worth of untaxed real estate in Worcester.

—A man near Danvers missed some of his poultry, and in searching for tracks found a portmonnaie containing seventy dollars with the owner's name in it. The point of the story is that the owner of the money cannot be persuaded to call round and get it.

—England has made up her mind to be supreme in Afghanistan. She says there is not room enough for herself and Russia both.

—The war between the trunk railroad lines from St. Louis east has been harmoniously settled.

—According to the new plan for the reorganization of the Army, the number of Major Generals and Brigadier Generals is to be reduced to the lowest possible figure.

—An American citizen has been arrested in Constantinople for conspiring against the Sultan

—The German Minister to Washington is to be changed.

—Coal stocks in the New York market have been very much depressed for the past week.

—The bill for counting the electoral vote, introduced by Senator Edmunds, has been under discussion during the past week in Congress.

—The West of England Bank, with forty-two branches, has been compelled to suspend in consequence of the drafts made upon it. Its liabilities amount to seventeen and one-half millions.

—Ceramics are blossoming out for the approaching holiday season.

—The horse Rarus has recently made his mile in 2:18 in San Francisco, with a heavy track and a keen North wind blowing.

—The stock of ice on hand is reported to be low, and the dealers will feel grateful for square winter weather during the coming month or two.

—A powerful religious revival is going on in Fall River at the present time.

—New Hampshire has been shipping apples largely into Maine, at a dollar per barrel.

—Mysterious disappearances seem to be the order of the day, occurring in quiet country places as well as in populous cities.

—The oldest bank director in Boston is Mr. Jeffrey Richardson, who is over ninety years of age. He has been a Director in the Suffolk Bank for over fifty years.

—Boffins Bower, under the management of Miss Jennie Collins, will open a fair early in January, in aid of the poor working women of the city, numbers of whom find free dinners there, all ready for them.

—The Directors of the Eastern Railroad Company in their recent annual report say that the present financial condition of the road is a proper subject of congratulation for the stockholders.

—A camp of veteran soldiers is proposed for next summer, at Framingham.

—The whereabouts of the Stewart remains puzzles the New York police as much as ever.

—A number of the citizens of Richmond have formed a society to take measures for the maintenance of the credit of Virginia, and have issued an address to the people of the State.

—The sugar question is just now the most prominent one in connection with the tariff issue

—A foreign writer remarks of Mr. Gladstone that he returns to the Homeric world as soon as he gets out of office.

—Berlin is called the paradise of lovers of good music.

—An astute writer remarks that the peculiarity of Jeremy Bentham's genius consisted in the fact that he perceived that legislation was an art.

—The only way in which greenbacks can be reissued is by increasing the expenditures of the Government.

—A long list of new bills was introduced into the National House of Representatives on Monday, which is the regular bill-day.

—Gov. Hampton of South Carolina was inaugurated last Monday while lying in bed. He is slowly improving from his accident.

—It has been proposed in the Senate to abolish the Patent Office.

—The snow storm of Monday came off warm, as all the storms of the season seem to have done.

—It is evident that no financial legislation will be accomplished at the present session of Congress.

—There has been a great reduction in freight rates in consequence of the railroad war.

—Boston is on the eve of launching another loan of a million dollars, at four per cent., currency, for defraying the cost of sewer improvements.

—There is a great pressure to bring about the transfer of the Indians to the War Department.

—The first shipment of horses from this country for the French army has arrived on safely in Havre, and gives great satisfaction.

—The Welland Canal is to be closed on Saturday, the 14th inst.

—The lads got fooled a trifle on the sliding and skating prospects.

—Mr. James S. Amory, of Brookline, has resigned the Treasurership of the Nashua Manufacturing Company, after having held it thirty-nine years.

—Strong protests are making in many quarters against the withdrawal of the postal car service.

—One of the swans in the Public Garden had to be chased around the pond several times before it would submit to be captured and taken to winter quarters.

—The earnings of twenty-five Western railways show an increase for the month of November of $187,000.

—Rev. Dr. Bartol preached a timely and very suggestive sermon, last Sunday, on Funerals.

—Leprosy is reported to have been discovered in Louisiana, and legislative inquiry is asked for.

—Some of the Philadelphia loan associations are reported in trouble, owing to bad investments and depreciation in values.

—A demand has been publicly made for a flower market in Boston.

—Swampscott received its first white settler 250 years ago next June.

Silver Wedding. — Monday evening Nov. 25th, being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Whittemore, a large number of their friends and neighbors paid them on this occasion a congratulatory visit. During the evening Deacon C. N. Chapin, in behalf of the company, presented the host and hostess with a silver pitcher and water service and other silver articles of value.

A suitable response was made by Mr. Whittemore, and the remainder of the evening very pleasantly passed in discussing a collation and in social intercourse.—*Journal, Nov. 27th.*

GREAT MERIT.

All the fairs give the first premiums and special awards of great merit to Hop Bitters, a the purest and best family medicine, and we most heartily approve of the awards for we know they deserve it. They are now on exhibition at the State Fairs, and we advise all to test them. See another column.

☞ A wash that would usually take all day with ordinary soap, can be done in three hours, with Dobbins' Electric Soap, (made by Cragin & Co., 144 State Street, Boston,) and it cannot injure the finest fabric. Try it.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET.

The demand for domestic Wool continues moderate and the market is still quite dull, with a disposition on the part of manufacturers to bear down prices. Sales of Ohio and Pennsylvania have been a 35½c for X to XXX; Michigan and Wisconsin at 31@34c; Combing and delaine selections at 36@40c., and super and X pulled Wools 30@33c ₩ lb, as to quality. California Wool has been selling at 19@20c ₩ lb, as to quality, for fall and spring. All kinds of Carpet Wool are quite dull and for foreign Wool the market is very quiet.

THE GREAT STORM.

The rain storm which commenced between 6 and 7 o'clock Monday evening continued almost uninterruptedly until Wednesday morning. The rain fell heavily all day and night, and was driven about by a strong southeast gale, which as nightfall approached increased in violence, reaching the maximum velocity at 7.30, when it blew at the rate of 52 miles per hour. The total rainfall, as measured at the Signal Service Station, for the twenty-four hours ending at midnight, was 2.50 inches. The temperature Tuesday was very high for this season, ranging about 55 degrees during the day; it fell a little as nightfall approached, and at 5 Wednesday morning the figures were 46. At midnight it was eleven degrees warmer in Boston than in Charleston, S. C., Savannah and Wilmington, N. C.; nine degrees warmer than in Jacksonville, Fla., one degree warmer than in New Orleans; eight degrees warmer than in Norfolk, Va., and eighteen degrees warmer than in St. Louis; while at Burlington, Vt., the temperature was five degrees higher than in Boston. The wind shifted about 1 A. M., and the sky before 2.30 o'clock was clear.

Tuesday's storm will long be remembered, throughout the Eastern and Middle States especially. Several lives have been lost, and the amount of property destroyed is enormous. Two serious railway disasters are reported—one on the Boston, Concord and Montreal road, four miles north of Concord, N. H., where the passenger train which left Boston at 5.35 Tuesday evening was thrown from the track, the engine and one car thrown down the embankment and nine persons wounded. Near Bartonsville, Vt., on the Rutland division of the Central Vermont road, a passenger train was thrown into the river by the washing out of a culvert; two persons were killed and others wounded. In the Mill River valley, in different parts of New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the freshets were sadly destructive to property.

On the Connecticut Central road there was a bad wash-out about a mile this side of Shaker village and eight miles from this city, caused by the breaking loose of the Shakers' pond, and an accident which very nearly proved fatal. The pond was in a basin containing 15 or 20 acres, and was built by the Shakers principally to furnish them a supply of ice for summer. The dam was located only a little way from the railroad track, and the wash from the pond ran through a stone culvert under the track. It has been noticed for several days, it is said, that the dam has been leaking, but no danger was apprehended. The last train over the road yesterday before the wash-out was the through freight from the south about 4 P. M., and this started on its return trip about 4.45. The train consisted of the engine "Scitico" and five cars, and on the straight stretch this side of Shaker station was accustomed to make about 30 miles an hour. The engineer, James Hunt, did not notice the washout until the engine was fairly in it. The fireman was in the act of throwing more coal upon his fire, and afterward said that he supposed they had collided with an up train when he felt the shock. The cars piled in on the engine one after another, and were a total wreck. The engineer with the tender of his engine which broke loose, were carried full a quarter of a mile below the wreck in the stream, and Hunt was badly bruised, but probably not seriously injured. His fireman also escaped with slight injuries. But James Donahue, one of the brakemen, had several ribs broken, and possibly sustained serious internal injury. The mail train, which leaves this city at 6.30 P. M., was down as far as the scene of the wash-out, and exchanged passengers with the through train from Saybrook, returning to this city about 9.30, Hunt, Woods and Donahue were taken to Rockville. They all live in Hartford. The wash-out was re

A TRIUMPH OF NAVAL ARCHITECTURE.

[New York Times.]

One of the largest and probably finest ships in the world is the Romsdal, now lying in the dock at the foot of West Eleventh street. She was built a twelve month ago by Robert Steele, of Greenock, is of iron, 300 feet in length over all, has a depth of hold of 26 feet, registers 1,800 tons, is four-masted, is owned by the Allans of Liver pool, and is now on her second voyage between Liverpool and New York in the American carrying trade. Not only is she four-masted, but she is full ship-rigged, and is the only vessel of that rig that has ever visited New York; and, indeed, there are but two or three like her in the world. Her lower masts and topmasts are of iron, only the topgallant-masts being of wood. The masts, which are designated as fore, main, mizzen and jigger masts, are also double—that is, there is a mast within a mast—from the keel to nine feet above the deck. The lower yards are of iron, the topsail yards of steel, and the topgallant and royal yards are of wood. The bowsprit is of iron and the jibboom of wood. All of her standing rigging is of wire, and is all, even to the topgallant shrouds, set up with patent screws instead of lanyards.

CHINESE CIVILITIES.

[From the San Francisco Golden Era.]

The Chinese are singularly affected in their personal civilities. They even calculate the number of their reverences. These are the most remarkable gestures. The men move their hands in an affectionate manner, while they are joined together on the breast, and bow their heads a little. If they respect a person, they raise their hands joined, and then lower them to the earth in bending the body. If two people meet after a long separation, they both fall on their knees and bend their face to the earth, and this ceremony they repeat two or three times. Surely, we may well proclaim this ceremony to be ridiculous. It arises from their natural affectation. They substitute artificial ceremonies for natural actions. Their expressions mean as little as the ceremonies. If a Chinese is asked how he finds himself in health, he answers: "Very well; thanks to your abundant felicity." If they would tell a man that he looks well in health, they say, "Prosperity is painted on their face;" or, "your air announces your happiness." If you render them any service, they say, "My gratitude shall be immortal." If you praise them, they answer, "How shall I dare to persuade myself of what you say of me?" If you dine with them, they tell you at parting, "We have not treated you with sufficient distinction."

☞ A Kentucky live-stock journal says: "At no time since the war, has the agricultural outlook presented so gloomy an aspect as at this time. The cause is threefold, (1) an exclusive cotton system; (2) low prices; (3) the lien law. The last has been the most fruitful cause of ruin. In addition to the causes above mentioned, we might add another: The want of some well-digested stock law. Some estimate the crop-loss from this source alone, as amounting to one-third of the entire crop produce."

TRUTH AND SOBERNESS.

What is the best family medicine in the world to regulate the bowels, purify the blood, remove costiveness and biliousness, aid digestion and stimulate the whole system?

Your own experience compels us to answer, Hop Bitters, being pure, perfect and harmless. See "Truth's" in another column.

New Advertisements.

Gale's Vegetable Cutter.

WARRANTED THE BEST

ROOT CUTTER

in the market.

Read the following unsolicited testimonials just received.

DEAR SIR:—The two No. 4 Root Slicers at hand, giving the best satisfaction both to my neighbor and myself, at the first trial I cut two bushels Ruta Bagas in fifty seconds; for size in cutting, for Sheep and Cattle, the shape of slice can scarcely be improved. JOHN LANDRETH, Manitowac, Wis.

SIR:—The Root Cutter I purchased of you the 15th inst. came as right and I am highly pleased with it, in fact I would not take five for it, if I could not get another. It runs easy and is perfectly. J. F. LONGFELLOW, Plymouth, Maine.

VALLEY MILLS, MASON CO., IND., 12, 6, '78.

GENTS:—Root Cutter received all O. K. and works to a charm. Cut 2 bushels of Turnips in one minute last evening on trial. Freight charge only $1.04. Thanks for prompt ment. Truly yours, J. J. WHITON.

We offer to dealers and the trade until Feb. 1st, extra inducements. For terms and prices, address

BELCHER & TAYLOR AGRICULTURAL TOOL CO.,

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MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR BABY!

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THE BIG, BEAUTIFUL PICTURE BOOK.

Illuminated Board Covers, 75 cents; Handsome Cloth, $1.00.

Large type; big, quarto pages; strong paper; words divided into syllables. No other book made for the wee folks is so thoroughly illustrated, or has such pretty rhymes, such gay, sweet, little stories, or is sold so cheap. Sold by Booksellers, or sent postpaid on receipt of price by

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THE GOLD THAT WEARS.

We parted one eve at the garden gate,
When the dew was on the heather,
And I promised my love to come back to her
Ere the pleasant autumn weather—
That we twain might wed
When the leaves were red,
And live and love together.

She cut a tress from her nut-brown hair,
And I kissed her lips of cherry,
And gave her a ring of the old time gold,
With a stone like the mountain berry—
As clear and blue
As her eyes were true—
Sweet eyes, so bright and merry!

"The wealth of my love is all I have
To give you," she said in turning;
"The gold that wears—like the radiant stars
In yonder blue vault burning!"
And I took the trust
As a lover must
Whose soul for love is yearning,

Fate kept us apart for many years,
And the blue sea rolled between us;
Though I kissed each day the nut-brown tress
And I made fresh vows to Venus—
ill I sought my bride;
And fate defied,
That failed from love to wean us.

I found my love at the garden gate
When the dew was on the heather,
And we twain were wed at the little kirk
In the pleasant autumn weather;
And the gold that wears
Now soothes my cares,
As we live and love together.

Ladies' Department.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

THE LOST INDIAMAN.

AN ORIGINAL STORY.

BY "CORPORAL SQUIB."

Author of "A Trip Southward;" "Nautical Sketches;" "Corporal Squib on the Farm;" "David and I," etc.

[Continued from last week.]

CHAPTER IX.

It was fortunate for Bloany that he had been standing among the coils of the cordage on which he had been at work, and that the blow he aimed at the shark took effect. The monster sheered off, and the coils tightening round Bloany's legs, he was saved. Creeler caught hold of the line and drew him in. "It's of no use going after him, Bloany. You shouldn't have struck at him that way if you wanted to catch him," said Creeler, as he drew him on to the raft

"Blast him, I hit him, any how!" Bloany gasped, as if unconscious that he had been in any danger.

"You should be more careful," said the Captain. "We need you now more than ever, Bloany, to look for another island."

"Aye-aye, sir," was the cheery reply; for Bloany always liked to be spoken to in this way. "I shouldn't wonder if we might find one."

It was well to hope for that, for the island they had tried so hard to reach was fast sinking behind them. Any further effort to reach it would be so futile that they made none. They did nothing, for awhile, but look about them and talk together solemnly. The day was drawing to a close, and night would make any return to that low bank of land still more hopeless. They felt that the coming darkness would hide it from their view forever, and that they must find some other land or die. This was now their one great thought.

They watched the great broad disc of the sun, as it sank in the sea. "How calmly and steadily it goes down," said Nathan; "as if there were no misery or joy in all the world!"

"Aye; and the little affairs of this world are not much, after all," the Captain replied with a sigh. "Not much to any but we mortals who are engaged with them, each struggling for himself, and clinging always to retain his hold on life a little longer. If it were only one's self, Mr. Woodman, it would not make much difference how soon we were rid of it all."

"If it were only one's self, there would not be much to stay or struggle for," said Nathan. "So what you say is very true. But I suppose the taking away of even the humblest of us, causes a pang to some who are left. It seems as if the human race were so bound together that man cannot live alone, or suffer death without realized thankfulness that it is to others than himself. Death itself would be better for me than to be altogether shut out from any of my kind."

That may admit of argument," said Creeler. "It strikes me, now, that I wouldn't much mind living alone for awhile, if I could have everything I wanted."

"That's a strong argument, certainly," said Nathan, with a smile. "I am not sure, after all, but what it would be rather pleasant to live alone, *for awhile*, if one could have everything he wanted."

"You are sharp enough for a lawyer, Mr. Woodman; or a minister. It wouldn't be a bad idea for you to go to preaching, if you ever get home."

"I think I might preach with some effect, could I but get home; for I should certainly feel very thankful to God for bringing me there."

"Land ho!" cried Bloany. "Land ho!" "Where away?" shouted they all, springing up.

"Off the starbud bow, sir. There it is!"

"The Lord be thanked!" gasped the Captain. "The Lord be thanked!"

For there, indeed, was another island, and they were drifting towards it. Bloany might not have seen it so soon in the full light of day, but now its outline was clearly defined against the deepening blue of the northern sky.

The emotions of the four men were somewhat different, as they looked upon the welcome sight. Creeler's first remark showed his depth of feeling. "We're in luck, sure," said he. "And that's a bigger island than the other, too. At least it's higher."

"I guess we're all right now," said Bloany.

But the Captain and Nathan said nothing, for a time, for the gratitude they felt was too great for utterance. Tears came to the eyes of both, as they looked at the land, and the Captain clasped the hand of his mate in silence. Creeler himself seemed more affected by their emotion than by the sight of the land, and for a moment he, too, was silent.

"I guess we're all right now," said Bloany again, evidently feeling that the silence was oppressive.

"Aye, Bloany! You raised it just in the right place this time," replied Creeler. "We've got a fair wind now, and plenty of it."

"We will get up those sails again," said the Captain. "They will indeed help us now."

And then they once more spread the sails, and turning the head of the raft directly towards the land, they counted on being on shore, safe from the sea at least, in a few hours more.

As Creeler had said, this land seemed higher than the other. It was far off. What they saw was a dim cone, descending quite precipitately for a part of its height, and then sloping gradually away into the sea. It was but dimly seen at first, and the growing darkness soon hid it from view. But having its bearings, they steered for it by the stars,—for in the gloom the points of the compass were hardly distinguishable,—confident that a few hours would bring it again in sight. They felt no more weariness, nor did they think of sleep, in their eagerness to again behold the land.

The breeze held steadily—for it was the regular trade-wind of the southern tropic, settled again in its old quarter after the variations of the last few days—and before midnight the moon rose, covering the sea with its silvery light. "There it is!" cried Bloany then. "There's the land! We're getting pretty near it!"

Owing to its height, the island looked nearer than it really was. It was still two hours before they got so near that they could see the white line of the surf along the shore.

That surf warned them how dangerous it would be to attempt to land;—and also that they were in danger of being driven on shore; when their raft would be wrecked and their goods lost, even if they should escape with their lives. So they took in the sails, and heading the raft parallel with the shore, pulled along it with the oars in search of some safer landing place.

They could now get some idea of the extent and form of the island; though they were still hardly able to judge of its character, or whether it was likely to be inhabited. It seemed to extend some half dozen miles east and west,—which they inferred was the length of it. They had no doubt that the cone was a volcano, now extinct, and that the other island and the reef they had been wrecked on, owed their origin to its action in some bygone time.

The cone rose to a height, as they judged, of about two thousand feet, its steep sides seeming to make its summit almost inaccessible, but the summit itself seemed to have been cut squarely off; as would naturally be the case if there were a crater there. It was nearest the eastern end of the island, and to the west of it, the land, from the foot of this cone, sloped very gradually down to the point towards which they were steering, forming a ridge of diminishing height, some four or five miles in length.

Being on the windward side of the island, they hardly expected to be able to land until they should have turned its western point, and got to leeward, where they would no doubt find smoother water, and, perhaps, some little haven where they could land without risking the loss of any of their goods.

It required considerable time to reach the point, with the aid of the oars alone, for they had approached the island almost abreast of the cone. They were so near that they could see the flashing of the surf, all along, and, at times, hear its dull, subdued roar. There were long intervals, as they labored at the oars, when no one spoke. Then those weird flashings, and those dull, mournful intonations, made their situation seem more desolate, if possible, than ever before. Even Creeler was affected by the solemnity of the scene, and remarked that he hoped they would not have to spend their days on that island,—it seemed so lonely a place.

At last they were abreast the point. But they feared to go too near, and steered so as to have at least half a mile clear in rounding it. The change in their course brought the wind almost directly aft, and for a time they allowed the raft to drift before it without any further use of the oars more than to give it the proper direction. They seemed to be drifting safely past, and the northern side of the island was already opening to view, when, suddenly, they became conscious that they were in shoal water. The progress of the raft was arrested, and the sea broke over it. But again it went forward,—and again it stopped, and another wave poured over them. Three times the raft stopped, and went forward, and then, on the fourth, it was evident it had grounded on a shoal over which it could not pass.

The surf now broke continuously over the raft, but fortunately the shoalness of the water prevented their doing much injury, more than to wet everything thoroughly through. But the alarm of those forlorn mariners was not to be measured by the strength of the waves. For a time they deemed their situation a hopeless one; but, becoming more accustomed to it, they saw that there was yet a chance to save themselves. Indeed within an hour the waves were scarce felt; and when daylight came,—as it did within an hour more,—their raft was resting on a pebbly strand, over which the waves had ceased to flow. Over this strand, or beach, they might have walked at once to the higher ground of the shore.

"The Lord has been merciful," said the Captain, "but now we have work to do that requires all haste."

"I don't see that," said Creeler. "We struck the bar at almost low tide. If we wait patiently, next tide will set us clear."

"There would be too much uncertainty in that—too much risk. It will be better to land these goods as fast as we can."

"And in that I agree with you," said Nathan; "though I fear the tide will not give us time to land them all."

"It won't be likely to, for it's a good half mile to the nearest spot where they will be out of its way," Creeler replied, as he surveyed the shore. "I don't feel so much like walking, this morning, as I do sometimes, either."

"Action will be better than idleness, at all events," said the Captain," and we shall at least secure a part, while if we leave them all here they may all be lost."

"I don't know but you are right, Captain. At any rate I shall lay hold and help get what we can on shore if you say so."

And that was what the Captain decided to do. But before beginning, they made a hurried breakfast—of hard ship-bread and raw salt pork, with a little water to wash it down —at the same time taking more note of the island. It was not an inviting place, they all admitted, and by this time they were quite sure it was not inhabited. They saw nothing to indicate that either man or beast had there a home. It had some wood, however, and was scantily covered, in places, with a brownish looking herbage. In a few places the herbage had a tinge of green; but the general appearance of the island as they then saw it, was that of sterility and desolation.

They now saw that another ridge, almost as long as that which reached out towards them, sloped down to northward from the mountain cone, thus forming quite a well-protected harbor. It was a pity they could not have got into that harbor with their raft, they said; but the danger of waiting for the tide to again set the raft afloat, seemed too great, and they began the task of transferring their goods to the shore. And then they realized more fully how great a work they had before them.

Having carried up the first loads and returned, the Captain sat down almost discouraged. Until then he had not been aware how weak he was. Exposure for two nights on the raft, the want of proper food, and all his previous efforts, had so reduced his strength that it was a task for him even to transport himself back and forth, without carrying any burden. And indeed it was so with them all.

The Captain's eyes grew moist, as he sat there in his weakness. "It may still be God's will that we should perish," he said; "and if so, we can only submit. Were it not for those at home, I would never struggle so for life. The mere fact of living is not worth such efforts as these."

"Rest yourself, dear sir; rest yourself," said Nathan, in his kindest tone; "you have not the strength to endure hardships that we younger ones have."

"No, Nathan (this was the way he had spoken to his mate in earlier years, for it was with Captain Chandler that Nathan had made his first voyage, but now he only addressed him as Mr. Woodman, unless his heart was unusually softened); No, Nathan, I have not the strength I once had, it is true; neither have you the strength to endure all things. We never can transport the half of these goods to the shore."

"I begin to think myself that we have undertaken too much. But it may be well, as you said, to secure what we can of them."

"I don't believe it will help us much, even if we do get some of them ashore, if we kill ourselves in doing it," said Creeler.

That was so true that both the Captain and Nathan had to assent to it. "It's a good mile, up there and back," continued Creeler, "and we can't carry much more than fifty pounds apiece, as we are now. We shall have to risk the greater part anyway, and it seems to me we had better save our strength and risk the whole; for then we shall be able to take care of the raft, when the tide comes; which is more than we can be sure of doing if we keep on and tire ourselves all out."

Creeler's argument seemed reasonable. Even if there were in full strength, it would be impossible to remove all the goods to the shore before the return of the tide; especially the heavy casks, those spars, the canvas, cordage, and many other things. Everything that would serve in building a boat, they deemed of the utmost importance, for they now felt sure that a resort to boat-building would be their only way of escape.

"But we are not on the highest part of the strand," said the Captain, "and I fear that before the tide would carry us over it we should be wrecked again. It will be a great risk for men in our condition to take."

"It is not very far across it," said Nathan, looking, and musing. "Not a quarter of the distance it is to the shore."

"That's so," said Creeler; "and fifty fathoms would carry us over the ridge on to the other slope. Then we would be all right."

And then the thought occurred to them all that if their raft could only be transported that fifty fathoms, they might wait for the tide with comparative safety. "It seems as if we might do that," said Nathan. "It would be but a small affair compared with the work we have begun."

Then they went over the ground, examining it more closely, and found that if they could move their raft even less than fifty fathoms, they would have a protecting ridge of about two feet perpendicular height astern of them. Three feet of water would float their raft; so that, were the raft only over there, the returning tide would float it before the waves could very much endanger it. The result was that they at once set about transferring their raft and goods to the opposite slope of the strand.

CHAPTER X.

The strand was hard and pebbly, and strown about it were many large and beautiful shells. At another time they would no doubt have admired these shells, but now they paid little attention to them. Life was too important to be wasted in such a way at that moment.

They first unloaded all their goods, that they might take the raft to pieces and remove that first. That would be the heaviest labor of all, on account of the difficulty of removing those large spars. It would be but a comparatively light affair to roll the casks over the pebbly strand to where they were needed.

They were at least half an hour in getting over each of the two side pieces, carrying forward first one end and then the other, but at last that was accomplished, and then the work went forward more rapidly. No one gave a thought to anything but the work in hand until everything had been removed and placed upon the reconstructed raft.

But before this was done, they had to wade in at least a foot of water to reach the raft, and some of the things that were left till the last were actually afloat in the returning tide. But they saved all, and even then had some time to wait before the tide would float them. When all had been again secured, the Captain was forced to lie down from exhaustion; and they were all, as Creeler expressed it, considerably used up.

They had no good a prospect of now getting their goods all safely on shore, however, that they were in much better spirits than they had been in that morning. Once on shore, and with their goods all safe, they would have plenty of time to rest and recruit themselves, they said. Creeler was even inclined to be facetious, saying that he looked forward to having some really good times on the island, as there would be no women to interfere with their domestic arrangements.

Though so lightly uttered, this last remark caused Nathan a sorrowful thought. How long would Mary have to wait, and would he ever return to claim her as his bride, were questions which arose in his mind, and for the solution of which he would have given all he had in the world—except the hope he still had of returning to her. It was better, after all, to be in doubt than lose that hope. "But it will be a lonely life," he could not help saying to Creeler in reply.

"That's so," Creeler admitted; "but, you know, Mr. Woodman, there's nothing like having things all your own way. I think I shall rather enjoy it for awhile."

"I hope you may," said Nathan, hardly conscious, in his thought of Mary, of what he said.

"There's fish here," cried Bloany, excitedly, at that moment. Just look at 'em, Mr. Creeler, swimmin' round the raft!"

Creeler and Nathan both looked, and even the Captain raised himself up that he might see them. The water seemed almost alive with them, and every one on the raft gave expression in some way, to his satisfaction. They were lively fish, said Nathan.

"Most likely they think they've found a prize. Have you any fishing-tackle in your kit, Bloany?"

"Aye, sir; I allers carries that. Like's not we'll have fish for dinner, yet."

"It's possible, Bloany. Bring out your lines."

As Bloany's chest was where it could be readily come at, he soon produced his tackle, and, baiting his hook with a piece of pork, he cast it among the finny crowd. But to his disappointment not one of them all seemed to think it worth their attention. Evidently they were too much interested in the raft to notice so small a thing as that bit of pork. "Haul in, Bloany," said Creeler, after a long time of waiting; "let's try 'em with something else. They ain't used to pork."

Bloany drew in the line, and Creeler removed the pork, putting in its place a piece of red flannel, which he tore from a corner of his shirt;—the corner from which it could best be spared. Bloany laughed, but Creeler looked serious. "There," said he "try that."

Again Bloany cast in his hook, and at once there was a dash for it. He drew out a three-pounder with an exulting cry. "Hi, yi! Give us some more of your shirt, Mr. Creeler; they like it!"

"They've an eye to color, you see. Tisn't so much the shirt, but they like lively colors. You can catch another with this piece just as well, Bloany; it's all right, you see. I've got to be a little saving of my shirts, for I don't know where I'll ever get any more. There you go again," and he cast Bloany's hook a second time into the water.

"Blarst my eyes if they don't all want it!" cried Bloany as he hauled in another; "but they can't only one have it ter time."

The same bait served again, and brought a third fish as quickly as it had the others. "Who'd think they'd be such fools as to bite at your shirt, Mr. Creeler?" said Bloany, laughing. "I must be they don't know what it is, I guess."

"Perhaps they don't," said Creeler, soberly. "They haven't been wearing shirts round here, you know. But just go on fooling them, Bloany, and if there's any trouble I'll stand by ye."

"But the raft is afloat now," said Nathan, "and we had better attend to that. Lay by your line, Bloany, and take that starboard oar."

"Aye-aye, sir," responded Bloany, more from force of habit than through willingness to obey; for he took time to draw in just one fish more. "There's enough for dinner, anyhow," he then said, throwing down his line and going to the oar.

The whole strand was now covered by the sea, but the waves were so spent in crossing it that they did the raft no harm. They were fairly afloat, and had nothing now to do but to pull in to leeward of the island and look for a harbor.

It was fortunate that they had not far to go to gain the protection of the island, for they pulled but feebly. Being already a little to northward of the point, with the wind southeast, they were soon in its lee. The strength of the breeze diminished, as they got more and more behind the land, and the sea became smoother; till at last neither the winds nor the waves any longer retarded their progress, and they might safely make the rest of the way as leisurely as their exhausted condition required.

They stopped pulling altogether, for awhile, and consulted where to land. The few goods they had carried on shore were in sight,—perhaps a mile distant from where they then were,—and the farther they should go, the greater would be the cost of transporting their goods to their landing place. But that, under the circumstances, was not allowed to affect their decision. There was but a single load of those goods for them all, and there would be no lack of time, after they were on shore, to transport them. They had been placed so high that they were in no danger from the sea, and as yet they had seen no living creature on the island to molest them.

The slope of the ridge opposite to them had so sterile an aspect that they decided to go further. The whole circuit of the bay was in full view, and they now got a better understanding than they had before had of the size and form of the island. That part of it which extended northward from the cove, terminated in a high bluff, which seemed to descend perpendicularly into the sea. The shore began to have a gradual rise a mile before coming to this point, presenting a steep face to the sea all the way, the summit of the bluff in its highest part being probably about two hundred feet above sea level.

A half mile to the right of where the shore began to rise, was a grove of palms, which seemed to stand on a narrow plain at the foot of the ridge, close by the sea. The slope above this plain seemed the most verdant part of the island, and the whole presented by far the most attractive spot within the range of their vision. "I think," said the Captain, "we had better pull for that grove, even though it should take a whole day to bring up the things we have landed."

"So do I," said Nathan; and so said Creeler. Bloany said nothing, but turned over his fish, one by one, with a satisfied look, and then cast his eyes into the water to see if the school was accompanying them. Probably it was not; for a slight shade of disappointment settled over his face, and he turned again to admire those he had caught. Still he said nothing.

It was some four miles in a straight line to that grove of palms, though it must have been nearly six by the curve of the shore. In their weak condition they were now almost overcome again by the rays of the sun, the mitigating breeze being so nearly gone, and they must again have the protection of an awning before attempting to pull across the bay. So at least half an hour was spent in raising an awning, before they laid their course for the grove.

While getting up the awning, they drank the last drop of the water they had brought from the ship, and there was not near enough to appease their thirst. Indeed they had not allowed themselves to drink all they wished at any time, and they were the more eager to land on that account. They had looked for a spring in the morning, at the point, but not finding one readily, had thought best to spend no more time in searching for water then.

The afternoon must have been more than half gone, when they finally drew near to an indentation in the shore, which appeared to divide the grove, but which they had not observed until they were almost ready to land. It seemed to afford the very haven they needed, and, heading directly for it, they soon found themselves between verdant palm-covered banks, in a little creek, which, at some seasons of the year, as it subsequently appeared, received the waters of a brook, that wound down within a cleft of the ridge. But the bed of this brook was now dry.

The creek was scarce twenty yards wide at its entrance, and narrowed to less than half that distance only a little way up. The water in it was shoal, but deep enough to allow the raft to get well up between the banks, when it grounded, and, feeling that it was now indeed safe from the elements they had so long contended with, they leaped with grateful hearts upon the green shore.

They were a little disappointed, however. For they had hoped to find the cocoanut palm, and quench their thirst with the milk of its fruit, which would have been so delicious to them then; but these palms were of some dwarfish, inferior species, and would afford neither food nor drink. Creeler was not slow in expressing his disappointment; but the Captain and Nathan were too grateful to find fault with anything. "We have too much to be thankful for," the Captain said,—"altogether too much, to mind that. We are now safe, and don't let us find any fault."

"We ought surely to be content," said Nathan, "after what we have experienced in the last three days."

"Of course," said Creeler; "but we could feel just as thankful, I suppose, if we had a few cocoanuts,—especially as there don't seem to be much fresh water."

Water was, of course, the first thing for which they sought, and they would be most likely to find it, they thought, at the head of the creek. Accordingly they went in that direction. But they did not go very far before they came to the dry bed of the brook, and stopped in disappointment. "No cocoanuts and no water," said Creeler. "Well, it don't look very encouraging, after all."

"I thank God that we have the firm land under our feet," said the Captain.

"I'm glad you do, Captain; and while you're about it, you may thank Him for me, too."

"Such thanks, Mr. Creeler, will hardly be acceptable. It does seem as if the perils we have escaped would lead you to thank Him yourself."

The Captain's solemn earnestness caused Creeler to be less forward, for a time, in expressing his disappointment, and he even made a sort of half apology for his irreverent words. But they did not stand there talking very long.

"There must be fresh water somewhere, said Nathan, as they turned back. "This plain could never be so green without some moisture."

They searched all along under the banks for some spring, and found indications of one just at the head of the creek. But they were obliged to fetch a spade from the raft and dig for the water. Having scooped out a basin some two feet in depth, they soon had the satisfaction of seeing it half filled with water. It was fresh and cool, and now each one drank enough to fully assuage his thirst.

The sun's rays fell full upon them where they stood, and the heat was such that they were glad to hasten down into the shade of the grove as soon as their thirst was appeased. "It's going to be awful warm here," Creeler remarked, and the others had already come to the same conclusion. The high land back of them effectually broke the force of the tradewind, which, if they had been on the opposite side of the island, they would now have felt in its full strength. There was scarce a breath of air stirring where they were, and, although the sun was getting low down, being at the foot of a western slope as they were, they felt the full force of its rays.

"But, warm as it is, we will now see if we can start a fire," said the Captain. "A warm meal will do us all good, and help us to bear the heat better."

"I don't know about that last," said Creeler, "but I won't object to a warm meal. Those fish will be a good deal better cooked than raw,—but where are we to get our fire from, Captain? It seems as though we're depending mostly on Providence for that."

"And Providence has provided the means, I think,—though I ought not to be too sure of that yet," the Captain replied. "I have never sailed as master of a ship without carrying the means of lighting a fire, in case of accident like this. There should now be in my chest a waterproof case containing all we need."

"Well, Captain, I'll thank the Lord for that! Probably I should have sailed as master all my life without thinking to do that. Such men as you, Captain, most always come out all right, somehow."

Whether Creeler's remark was to be taken as complimentary, the Captain did not stop to consider, but with Nathan's assistance he landed his chest, and soon produced the case of which he had spoken. It was made of lead, soldered so as to be perfectly watertight. A knife, therefore, had to be used in opening it; but it did not take long to bring its contents to light. "I have made five voyages since I put this in my chest," said the Captain, "but you see everything is in good condition."

The case contained those old-fashioned means of lighting a fire—flints and steel, and a small tin box, with tinder, a wad of tow, and some small wax candles. "We're all right for a fire," said Creeler, when he saw them.

"We need some dry wood, however," said Nathan, "and that doesn't seem to be very abundant. Get the axe Bloany, and let's see what we can find."

Bloany brought the axe, and they were not long in finding a dry palm stub, from which they chipped and splintered enough for a fire. They whittled several of the splinters into fine shavings, and formed a pile, to which the Captain applied the flame of the candle he had lighted, and in a few moments their fire was crackling and blazing cheerily.

But they lacked nearly all the appliances for producing a satisfactory meal; or what, under more favorable circumstances, they would have considered a satisfactory one. Still, no one but Creeler was disposed to find fault with what they had; nor did they undertake more than they could readily accomplish with the means at hand. They merely dressed the fish, spitted them on sharpened sticks, and exposed them to the fire until they were broiled to their tastes; when they made, with the aid of their bread, what they then pronounced an excellent supper.

By the time it was finished, the sun had set, and night followed so quickly that they had time to do but little more. There was much that needed doing, and every hour's delay would result in loss. Since the night of the wreck, nearly all their goods had been saturated with water. They had had no opportunity for drying them on the raft, and were likely, therefore, to be much injured, if not worthless. On this account it was necessary that everything should be exposed to the sun as quickly as possible.

They worked at transferring the different packages to the shore, till every ray of daylight was gone, and then, after taking means to preserve their fire, they made themselves beds beneath the broad-leaved palms, and lay down to wait for another day.

[To be continued.]

CHINESE DENTISTRY.

[Chambers' Journal.]

It is well known that the Chinese attribute toothache to the gnawing of worms, and that their dentists profess to take these worms from decayed teeth. But how they performed this trick, and so artfully concealed it in the hurry of daily business, was a secret only recently solved by a European inquirer. After some difficult and delicate negotiations, an intelligent-looking native practitioner was induced to hand over the implements of his trade, together with a number of the worms, and to give instructions in the method of procedure. When a patient with toothache applies for relief, if the tooth is solidly fixed in the socket, the gum is separated from it with sharp instruments used for cutting the gums; the worms mix with the saliva, and the dentist, of course, picks them out with a pair of forceps. The patient having peculiar demonstration that the cause of disease has been removed, has good reason to expect relief, which in many cases would naturally follow the bleeding of the gum. When the pain returns the same operation is performed over again, and a fresh supply of worms fully accounts for the recurring trouble. These worms are manufactured in quantities to suit the trade, and they are very cleverly done; still, to carry on the delusion fully, the dentists are obliged to keep on hand a few live worms to show their patients, explaining that most of these worms taken from the tooth are killed either by a powder which is often applied, or by the process of removing them with the forceps. The practice just described, it may be added, is resorted to when the tooth is firmly set in the jaw.

SMOKERS.

Robert Hall is said to have preached his most eloquent sermons after smoking a pipe in his vestry; the same with Dr. Parr, who sometimes smoked twenty pipes in one evening, and "never wrote well except under the inspiration of tobacco." According to Bishop Kennet, Thomas Hobbes, the philosopher of Malmesbury, retired to his study every dry after dinner, and had his candle and ten or twelve pipes of tobacco laid by him; then, shutting his door, he fell to smoking, thinking, and writing for several hours; and although such an excessive smoker, lived to the good old age of ninety-and two. All know how the great Sir Isaac Newton smoked; and how, on one occasion, in a moment of profound abstraction, he placed the little finger of his "lady-love" into the hot bowl of his pipe, in place of a tobacco-stopper. Thomas Carlyle smokes, as do Lord Lytton, Tennyson, Louis Napoleon, and many other eminent men. Campbell, Byron, Moore, and Lord Eldon were moderate smokers, and frequently bore testimony to the comfort of tobacco. Sir Walter Scott was a great smoker; so was Lord Palmerston—and the use of the weed did not shorten his days. We wish we could say so much for Charles Lamb, "the gentle Elia," who toiled after it as some men toil after virtue. To say all that can be said in favor of tobacco would require volumes.

THE INWARD JUDGE.

[From "Institutes of Manu."]

BY JOHN GREELEAF WHITTIER.

The soul itself its awful witness is,
Say not in evil doing "No one sees,"
And so offend the conscious soul within
Whose ear can hear the silences of sin
Ere they find voice, whose eyes unsleeping see
The secret motions of iniquity.

Nor in thy folly say "I am alone."
For, seated in thy heart as on a throne,
The ancient Judge and Witness liveth still,
To note thy act and thought; and as thy ill
Or good goes from thee, far beyond thy reach,
The solemn Doomsman's seal is set on each.

Maggie Parker's Marriage.

BY JOHN CAMBELL.

[New York Times and Messenger.]

At the last estimate there were half a dozen Maggie Parkers in the city, hence when the announcement was made that Maggie Parker was to be married the next Monday in the Park Avenue Church, every one supposed it was Maggie Parker of his or her acquaintance. Exclamations of surprise were heard in all circles of society. "The sly puss, how secret she has kept her engagement!" said Millie Acheron, "but I do not wonder she goes off suddenly, she's such a pretty girl. Who do you suppose the fortunate groom is? Bainbridge, Bainbridge? I do not remember any such gentleman. Did we ever meet him at Mrs. Anderson's in Harlem? Mrs. Acheson was quite in the fog regarding this wedding. In truth it was not the Maggie Parker of her acquaintance at all.

"Well, I do declare!" exclaimed Mr. Henry Simmons. "I always knew that girl was anxious to be married. I never dared ask her myself, for fear she would snap me up. It's too funny for anything to think that Maggie Parker has found a fellow willing to marry her! And yet, after all, she is not such a bad girl; not very old, nor plain. She can sing though, you bet. 'The Last Rose of Summer,' and 'Baby Mine,' are plucked and spanked at me when she's around. There'll be music in that family, after the wedding. She used to be sweet on me; why in goodness doesn't she send me a card to her wedding?"

Mr. Summers was also at sea. The Maggie Parker of his acquaintance was still happily singing "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," and she had no thought of rocking any other kind of cradle.

There was a real, live Maggie Parker, however, who had invited her friends to see her married. She had been travelling in Europe with her mother, and came home a bride, so suddenly, to astonish the town with wedding. She used to live in other days, in South Washington Square, or thereabouts, but recently had dwelt in a modern French flat, up town. The wonder was great, and people who knew Maggie in pinafores and checked stockings, when she was fond of sticks of candy, was anxious to know who had consented to become her husband. Only a French count, or a German baron, or an English honorable, or an Irish member? Not a bit of it—she was simply going to marry her cousin from Boston. How very tame! Any one may marry a cousin if any one has a cousin to marry. And Boston boys are as—thick as blackberries. The Common is full of them, and they stretch clear out to Cambridge and beyond. Why would Maggie marry a man who was already in the family? It is so much more romantic to go outside the list of relatives, and ensnare some new fellow, never before seen or heard of. Whatever else she might have been, this Maggie Parker was not romantic. She married her cousin because she loved him, and he had asked her to, and she knew his family, and her mother and his mother were sisters, and they both had the same grandfather. All these were reasons enough. Besides, she must marry sometime, and it was not half so embarassing to take some one she knew all about.

Therefore the day was set for the wedding, and the cards were sent out. One of these bits of pasteboard went to the Dustman's Hotel, where Aunt Esther and her two daughters were passing the season. Not but what it would have been far better for Aunt Esther to live in a quiet corner of some country village, or even in apartments in Brooklyn or Hoboken. But the truth is, she had been in public life so much, it was impossible for her to leave it, and as the Dustman's House stood on a popular avenue, and she had rooms there, she could also have visitors, hold weekly receptions, and send regular letters to the "Saturday Night Pop" newspaper. This was her idea of public life. More than this she had daughters on her hands—accomplished, traveled, delicate, literary daughters, who were rapidly advancing in years, and must needs some day have husbands, or die old maids. A great many young men had been introduced to Aunt Esther's daughters during the past twenty years, but none of them got entangled worth a cent. Even the most devoted of their engagements, now and then, to a New Orleans editor, an eminent artist, a poet, a French nobleman, or a rich old widower, failed to bring the men to terms. The New Orleans editor contented himself with dedicating a piece of indifferent poetry to Mollie, and the artist forgot to call on Puss. So Puss and Mollie plodded on, and set little traps for very likely game, but all proved worthless. On this account it was necessary that everything should be exposed to the sun as quickly as possible.

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